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Village View

Oak Lawn, Illinois

Cook County

From Jan 06, 2009

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VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 35 Number 12 January 6, 2009

Village of Oak Lawn has a program Our Children Our Government

On Friday, December 12, 8th grade students from St. Linus School participated in the "Our Children, Our Government" program at Oak Lawn Village Hall. Pictured standing from left to right are Jack Barry, Ryan Fell, Mayor Dave Heilmann, Nick Zawaski,Clerk Jane Quinlan, Samantha Devlin, and Fire Division Chief Steve Rockey.

Dr. Diane Cody

New School Superintendent for Evergreen Park

Evergreen Park Elementary School District #124 is very pleased to announce the employment of Dr. Diane Cody as the Superintendent of Schools beginning July 1, 2009.

Dr. Cody received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Nebraska, a Masters in Mathematics Education from the University of Illinois at Chicago, a Masters in Educational Administration from Northern Illinois University and her Doctor in Educational Administration from Loyola University.

Dr. Cody has been working in Winfield School District 34 as the Superintendent of Schools since July, 2003. During her tenure in District 34, the District has significantly improved ISAT scores reflecting one of the highest rates of improvement in DuPage County. Dr. Cody developed a five-year strategic plan, established one-year action plans to implement strategic plan goals and aligned resources to support goals. Additionally, Dr. Cody created and managed the budget, facilitated a financial task force to assess finances and moved from deficit spending to a balanced budget. She managed the construction budget and held the primary supervisory role on behalf of the District for a $9.5 million construction project.

Prior to working in Winfield School District 34, Dr. Cody served as an Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Principal, Math Coordinator, Assistant Principal, Adjunct Instructor and Teacher.

In the past year, Dr. Cody has presented at the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conference on Response to Intervention for Math Teachers and the IASA State Superintendent Conference on Principal Evaluation Utilizing Best Practices.

The Board of Education is looking forward to working with Dr. Diane Cody as the Superintendent of Schools for Evergreen Park Elementary School District #124.

As staff, parents, and community members, please join the Board in welcoming Dr. Cody to District #124 and the Evergreen Park Community

Oak Lawn Library programs start the New Year reading

"Read to Succeed" with the Chicago Wolves

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., has partnered with the Chicago Wolves hockey team to offer a month-long reading incentive program for Oak Lawn students eighth grade and under who are independent readers. Each "Read to Succeed" participant who reads three books between January 2 and January 31 will receive a special prize provided by the Chicago Wolves. Registration begins Friday, January 2 at the Youth Services Desk.

On Wednesday, January 21 at 4 p.m., Chicago Wolves Center Riley Holzapfel will give a brief presentation at the library about ice hockey and the Wolves team. He will also answer questions, sign autographs and dress an audience member in hockey gear. No advance registration. Lower level meeting room.

Each year, the Chicago Wolves' "Read to Succeed" program reaches more than 28,000 children in the Chicagoland area.

For more information about this and other children's programs, call 708-422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

Free Movie: Arctic Tale

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will host a free screening of the film "Arctic Tale" on Wednesday, January 7 at 3:30 p.m. This 2007 documentary follows the life cycles of a walrus calf and polar bear cub. Rated: G.

First-come, first seated in the library's lower level meeting room.

For more information, call 708-422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

Free Concert: Broadway Favorites

Pianist Eugene Kwok will perform a free concert featuring "Music from the Movies" Sunday, January 11 from 2-3 p.m. at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95thSt.

Hear musical scores and songs from popular films, such as "Gone with the Wind," "Romeo and Juliet," "Tender Is the Night" and other songs. Kwok is an accomplished pianist who has performed at Nordstrom and Von Maur stores since 1991. He has a repertoire of over 1,200 songs memorized. This concert is sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Lawn Library. View a complete schedule of library programs at www.oaklawnlibrary.org. For additional information, call 708-422-4990.

Oak Lawn resident wins 20th Gold Medal for bowling

Keith Bilski from Oak Lawn Illinois, wins his 20th Gold Medal in the Illinois Special Olympics State Bowling Tournament held at Landmark Recreation Center in Peoria on Sunday December 7th 2008.

Commissioner Debra Shore speaks at Mount Greenwood Residence Association

Commissioner Debra Shore of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, will speak before the Mt. Greenwood Residence Association, Thursday, Jan. 15, at 8 p.m. in the Mt. Greenwood Park , 3721 W. 111th St . , Mt. Greenwood .

Margaret Schroeder, coordinator, announced the commissioner will share her expertise on the MWRD. Commissioner Shore is the Founding Editor and Writer of the Chicago Wilderness and has received many awards for her writing accomplishments.

She has degrees from Columbia College , John Hopkins University and Goucher College .

SchoolReach enters into partnership with St. Cornelius Catholic School

System will allow school administrators to quickly and accurately disseminate information to parents

Chicago (December, 2008) — GroupCast Messaging systems, a leader in the emerging automated call notification industry, has partnered with St. Cornelius Catholic School to implement GroupCast's SchoolReach system. The SchoolReach system, already in use in many school districts nationwide, was designed to provide a recorded message from a school official to parents for emergency purposes or for a general announcement.

SchoolReach allows a school official, such as the principal, to record a brief message, which will be sent to a list of parents simultaneously. Greeted by the friendly voice of a familiar school personality, parents know right away that the message is important. Once the message is recorded, it only takes a few minutes to distribute to parents. The system then generates a report that tells officials which parents answered, when an answering machine picked up and whether those who answered listened to the whole message. Replacing older forms of communication, such as phone trees and sending notes home with students, the system allows for effective, and timely dispensing of important information.

"SchoolReach allows a school administrator to more effectively and efficiently contact parents with important announce-ments," said Paul Langhorst, GroupCast Vice President of Operations "Schools struggle with day-of or night-before notices to parents; SchoolReach serves this need perfectly and requires no hardware, software or phone lines for use. We are very pleased that St. Cornelius Catholic School recognizes the need for such a communication tool and has selected GroupCast as its partner."

In schools already using the SchoolReach system, officials have found that it is an ideal way to provide parents with important information, such as school closings or registration reminders. It also works well in emergency situations or for rumor abatement. This system allows officials to send out messages to the entire student body or a select group affected by the announcement, such as a class or sports team. It also allows officials to call parents at work, home, or even on their cell phones if they prefer.

About GroupCast and SchoolReachGroupCast is a St. Louis-based organization that provides innovative solutions for automated communica-tions, including voice broadcasting, text and fax messaging.

SchoolReach, a division of GroupCast, is an automated phone broadcast system that allows a centrally recorded message to be delivered simultane-ously to tens, hundreds or thousands of phone numbers within minutes. SchoolReach is used by thousands of schools across the country to notify parents about cancellations and emergency announc-ements and to abate rumors and make general reminders. More information about GroupCast or SchoolReach can be found at www.groupcast.com and www.schoolreach.com.

The "Obama Chicago Ball," A Public Inaugural Event to be Held at Condesa del Mar

More than 1,000 attendees expected at local inaugural to mark inauguration of nation's first African- American President.

On Tuesday, January 20, history will be made when Barack Obama is sworn in as the 44th President of the United States of America . Chicagoans and people across Illinois are demonstrating unprecedented pride in the President-elect's accomplishment, and many are seeking ways to mark the historic occasion in grand fashion. From small get-togethers to official and unofficial balls and galas, options abound for those seeking a memorable way of ushering in the new and highly-anticipated new era.

One such event is The Obama Chicago Ball (www.obamachicagoball.com) being held at the elegant Condesa del Mar (www.condesadelmar.com), 12220 South Cicero Avenue , in South Suburban Alsip, on Tuesday, January 20th, from 5:30-10:30 p.m. The gala celebration was conceived by local attorney and ardent Obama supporter Tom Paris.

"I decided to host this event because so many people – like myself – wanted to do something special on inauguration day," said Paris . "While there are other officially-sponsored events, we wanted to bring together a diverse group of people from all walks of life and all political stripes who could all take pride in the President-elect's successful campaign and the new direction it means for the country."

According to Paris , more than 1,000 people are expected to attend – with the facility accommodating some 1,300 people.

Tickets are available at three price levels: $130/per person for preferred seating; $105/per person for premium seating and $90/per person for available seating (limited sight lines for video screens and live entertainment) and can be purchased online via the secure website.

All packages include open bar, appetizers, dinner, dessert, live entertainment provided by Maggie Speaks (www.maggiespeaks.com), a D.J., dancing and large screen video screens showing official inaugural events in Washington , D.C. Only a select number of tickets are available at each price level. Organizers are encouraging people to purchase tickets early to guarantee availability. Select vendors will also be selling commemorative items and collectables outside of the ballroom.

Paris selected Condesa del Mar because of its historic and elegant accommodations. It's also easily accessible from all major expressways including 294, the Dan Ryan and the Stevenson.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.obamachicagoball.com or email info@obamachicagoball.com.

Top Chicago Lawyer explains why Governor Blagojevich has a win win situation

Why is Governor Blagojevich going to fight fight fight his impeachment in the Illinois State Legislature? Why won't he resign? Is it really because he hasn't done anything wrong, or is there some deeper reason?

To answer that question you have to think like a criminal defense lawyer. The Governor, with the lowest approval rating in Illinois history, knows he has no real chance of re-election, and he also knows that the legislature will fight him at every turn and will probably make him the subject of an embarrassing impeachment and removal from office. Resignation seems like the smart move. But not really.

His defense team, lead by Ed Genson, a savvy lawyer, see the impeachment proceedings and a senate trial, as a chance to achieve every criminal defense lawyers dream, subpoena power and the legal right to interview and question under oath witnesses who will be testifying for the federal government at any corruption trial. This will give Blagojevich a significant advantage in the defense against the criminal charges. If you assume the Governor is more interested in staying out of prison than staying in office, then his current course of conduct, the fight fight fight, makes perfect sense.

But there is more. Lets say that the US Attorney and the State Legislature are also savvy, (we certainly know the US Attorney is no fool), and they refuse to allow Governor Blagojevich to issue subpoenas and interview or call witnesses who are involved in the federal governments corruption case. Then what? The result of this would be that the Illinois State Legislature could not use the corruption allegations against Blagojevich as a basis for impeachment or removal from office. Under the Illinois Constitution the a trial in the Senate is to be conducted by the Senators "according to law", and is presided over by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who is, of course, a Judge. It is not merely a political act. Therefore, unless Governor Blagojevich is provided with the tools of due process he cannot be impeached or removed from office.

It may not look like it, but in actuality the impeachment proceedings are a gift to Governor Blagojevich, and, he is in a win win situation because of them. If they proceed with impeachment then he gets a significant advantage in fighting the federal corruption charges. If the try to avoid interfering with the corruption case, then he can't be impeached.

Joel A. Brodsky is best known for his representation of Drew Peterson. Joel Brodsky's on camera interviews during his representation of Drew Peterson on such shows as *Larry King Live*, *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *The CBS Morning Show*, *On The Record with Greta Van Sustren*, *Nancy Grace*, and others, show that he has the experience to give intuitive and informative on camera presentations, and that he is more than capable of thinking on his feet, and fielding questions as they arise.

Joel A. Brodsky is available for comment on this the Blagojevich case and other matters. Joel A. Brodsky can be contacted by telephone at his office 312-701-3000 during business hours, or his cell phone at 312-523-9570, or on his blackberry at joelbrodsky@sbcglobal.net

Banquet Halls, Catering Companies, Limo Agencies, Tuxedo, Bridal & Flower Shops, Travel Agents, & Rental Stores, DJ's and Musicians, call for details on Village View's Valentine Day and Bridal Issue for February 3rd. Ask for Linda 312-624-8996.

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Dr. James Hogg

Dr. James Hogg to Address AARP #3558

Dr. James Hogg, D.D.S. will speak before the A.A.R.P. #3558 Monday, Jan. 12 at 1:30 p.m. in the Johnson-Phelps V.F.W. Hall, 9514 S. 52nd Ave. , Oak Lawn .

Felix Waitches, coordinator, announced that the doctor will discuss dental hygiene.

Dr. Hogg graduated, with honors, from the University of Illinois Dental School and went on to become an instructor there.

In addition to normal requirements at the University, Hogg participated, with various teachers who had research grants, to explore different techniques and materials.

His area of interests is cosmetic bonding, traditional procedures for denture wearers and sleep apnea.

Dr. Hogg's office is located at 10232 S. Central Ave. in Oak Lawn.

Toddler Programs at Hickory Hills Park District

Friday Frolics is a class designed for children ages 2 ½ - 5 years old. This is an opportunity for moms, dads, and caregivers to get a head start on their weekend errands. Children will have fun playing a varicty of games. Classes are held Fridays, January 16 – February 20 from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. at Krueger Park Rec. Center . 9100 S. 88th Ave. Fee: Resident $38; Non-Resident $43.

Korner Kickers is an instructional class that will teach the young soccer stars the basics of the game. Kids will learn basic techniques and get familiar with the game and how it is played. This class is for children 4-6 years old. Classes are held on Fridays, January 16 – February 20 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Fee: Resident $20; Non-Resident $25.

Youth Sports Programs at Hickory Hills Park District

Nothing But Net is a program that will alternate between soccer and basketball. By doing drills, kids will become familiar with passing, dribbling, shooting and basic rules of the game. Classes are held Mondays, January 19 – February 23 from 5:45 – 7:00 p.m. at Krueger Park Rec. Center . Ages 7-10 years. Fee: Resident $25; Non- Resident $30.

Play everyone's favorite game Dodge Ball at Hickory Hills Park District. Burn off some excess energy after sitting in a classroom all day. Children will be divided into teams each week. All games are supervised. Classes are held Tuesdays, January 27- March 10 from 3:45 – 5:00 p.m. at Krueger Park Rec. Center . Ages 7-10 years. Fee: Resident $15; Non-Resident $20.

Sign –up for Wide World of Sports. Soccer, dodge ball, basketball, and flag football are just a few of the sports that will be played in this program. Teamwork, sportsmanship and fun are all stressed through games we play each week. Classes are held on Thursdays, January 29 – March 12 from 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. at Krueger Park Rec. Center . Ages 9-12 years. Fee: resident $19; Non- Resident $24.

Monday Night Soccer Club is a unique program that will meet on Monday nights for high kicking action at Krueger Park Rec. Center . Each week, players will get a chance to sharpen their skills and play a 45 minute game. Kids will pick their own teams each week and learn how to play without coaches. Classes held January 19 – March 9 from 7:30 – 8:45 p.m. Ages 11-14 years. Fee: Resident $32; Non-Resident $37

For more information please call 708-598-1233 or www.hhparkdistrict.org.

Smith Village Residents Help the Local Community

Resident of Smith Crossing in Orland Park including Leila Bashaw, Anita Monroe, Alice Lyzak and Dick Corrigan appreciate the success of a food drive they coordinated on behalf of Frankfort food pantry. The residents of the local continuing care retirement community wanted to make holidays merrier for local families in need. For more information about Smith Crossing call 708-326-2300 or visit smithcrossing.org.

Sis Dwyer made the move. You can too!

Sis Dwyer was so eager to make Smith Village home, she moved in even before she sold her family home. Now, Sis is enjoying all Smith Village has to offer– her book club, choir and gardening.

She's also happy to report she just sold her home.

The affordable fees at Smith Village include one- and two-bedroom apartments, exceptional dining, housekeeping, fitness programs, social activities, a comprehensive long-term care plan and so much more.

Call for an appointment or stop in for
Twilight Tuesday from 4 pm to 7 pm
Wednesday Open House from 11 am to 2 pm

For more information or to schedule a tour, call
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Miss Illinois Katie Lorenz is shown with Jerling Jr. High student Shannon Mulcahy, who holds up the sign for "responsibility," one of the six pillars of character.

Miss Illinois speaks about character at a Jr. High in Orland

Miss Illinois Talks Character with Jerling Jr. High Katie Lorenz, who was recently awarded the title of Miss Illinois, came to Jerling Jr. High on December 9th to talk about the importance of being a person of good character. Lorenz is a representative with the program Character Counts, the same program that the Jerling staff model with their students.

Lorenz worked with the students in reviewing the Six Pillars of Character: trustworthiness, responsibility, respect, fairness, caring and citizenship. "You want to start making good character decisions now," Lorenz advised. "It becomes easier and easier to make the right decision when you make a habit of doing it." Miss Illinois challenged students to find a way to volunteer in their community, and talked about an enjoyable experience she had working with the Make a Wish Foundation.

Lorenz has already visited over 12,000 students this year to talk about character and her volunteer platform, and also takes a few moments at each school to debunk some common assumptions people make about the Miss America contestants. "We are smart individuals," she noted, "and all of us aren't anorexic and just say we want 'world peace' like you might think."

Lorenz graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish and English, and was a high-performing high school student. She noted that one of the two main reasons she wanted to become Miss America was the $10,000 scholarship that the winner receives; she is an MBA candidate at Loyola University Chicago's Graduate School of Business.

The second reason - it's been her dream since she was seven years old. Lorenz will compete for the Miss America Title in January in Las Vegas, and will also appear in a reality show based on the competition, which will air on The Learning Channel (TLC)

Fitness is affordable at Tinley Fitness

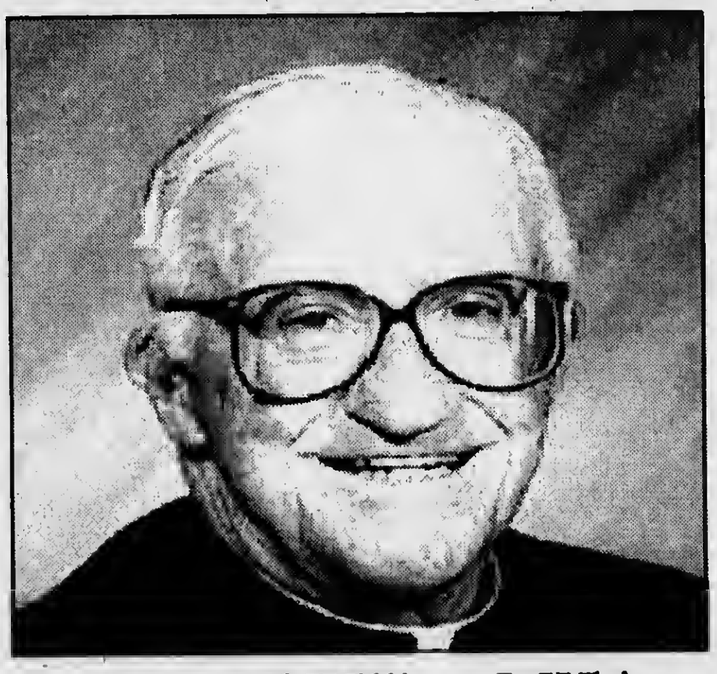
Tinley Fitness is ready to help you kick off your fuzzy slippers, get some exercise and have a little fun, too. Located at 17500 Duvan Drive in Tinley Park (right next to Mr. G's Furniture), Tinley Fitness offers a full-service weight room, equipped with free-weights and machines, treadmills, stationary bikes and ellipticals, along with racquetball and handball courts, a lap pool, and a kickboxing station. In addition to the workout equipment, Tinley Fitness also offers fun and exciting group fitness classes free of charge to its members. Class activities range from aquatic exercises and step and tone, to yoga and pilates. Whether you are serious about getting into shape, or just looking to have a fun time while staying healthy and fit, Tinley Fitness has everything you need.

Tinley Fitness is currently offering a four-month special! For a limited time, you can purchase a four month membership to Tinley Fitness for only $99. This full-privilege membership entitles you to all club amenities for one low price without enrollment or hidden fees. At the end of four months you may convert your four-month membership to an annual membership by paying the difference between the two fees.

Many people are beginning to realize how important it is to stay healthy and keep in shape. That's why Tinley Fitness offers various workout programs and an extensive weight room so you can create a workout routine that works with your lifestyle and workout goals. You'll also find Tinley Fitness staff ready to assist members with new and effective workout routines, exercises and fitness tips.

With the current economy, staying in shape has to be affordable. Tinley Fitness offers the lowest rates in the area, without any hidden fees or additional enrollment costs. So come in today and take advantage of the membership specials going on at Tinley Fitness. These offers will not last forever, so come in before they blow away!

Tinley Fitness is a facility of the Tinley Park-Park District. For more information, please contact Tinley Fitness at 342-4255 or visit www.tinleyparkdistrict.org



Reverend William J. White

Reverend William J. White, beloved son of the late Catherine, nee Briscoe, and William White; loving brother of Robert J. (the late Peggy) White and Mary "Betty" (the late William) Mahoney; fond uncle of James, Moira, Lisa, Meg, Dan, Bill, Tim and Brian; treasured great-uncle of many.

Fr. White was a faithful priest to his parishioners at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Chicago, St. Nicholas Church in Evanston, St. Jude Church in South Holland and a dedicated pastor at St. Gerald Church in Oak Lawn for 17 years and currently as Pastor Emeritus at St. Gerald.

Arrangements handled by Thompson & Kuenster Funeral Home, 708-425-0500.

Orland Jr. High students Alyssa Sokolowski, Kristina Kirk, Mike Kats and Joe Kettmann show four of the over 550 letters that were written to anonymous soldiers through "Any Soldier." They stand in front of the tree where donated gifts are collected, to be sent to Toys for Tots, which benefits children of living where a Marine Corps Unit is located.

Orland Jr. High Students, Staff Support the Troops

In the last week before Orland Jr. High's holiday break, teacher John DiNovo read that Toys for Tots, which collects and distributes toys in the communities in which a Marine Corps Reserve Unit is located, was experiencing a significant drop in donations. Knowing how generous the students, parents and staff have been in recent collections, the idea was opened up to the school community to see if some last minute toys could be collected. With just two days to donate, DiNovo said he was very proud of the students to see that dozens of gifts were brought in on the first day, with many more to follow on the second.

The collection tied in nicely to a letter-writing campaign organized by the school's library, under the direction of Media Center Specialist Amanda Kuzminski. Over 550 colorful, glitter-covered letters bidding "Happy Holidays" and "Happy New Year" were sent to the "Any Soldier" organization, which will send the student's letters to men and women in the military who do not receive mail from home.

Installation of Commissioners

Commissioner Terrence J. O'Brien, President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago extends congratulations to newly installed Commissioner and and Vice President, Kathleen Therese Meany, Commissioners Frank Avila and Cynthia Santos.

This is the fourth installation for Commissioner Meany, third for Commissioner Santos and second for Commissioner Avila. Each term runs for 6 years.

Former southside resident Katie Quick, performs in Oak Lawn

Professional Singer/Entertainer Katie Quick performs in Oak Lawn. The Oak Lawn Park District is hosting an afternoon with Katie Quick on Wednesday, January 14 at the Stony Creek Clubhouse (5850 W. 103rd).

Katie is a native Chicago Southsider and has opened for Grammy-nominated artists, been featured on WGN Radio and the Great American Country Music Television Channel, graced the cover of the Chicago Sun-Times, made her way to the semi-finals of Nashville Star, won the US 99.5 Talent Competition, and released her very first solo album.

The doors open at 12:15 pm with a buffet lunch at 12:30 pm. The entertain-ment will begin at 1:30 pm. Fee is $13 for adults and $5 for children 10 years and younger. For more informa-tion, please call 708/857-2225.

Oak Lawn Library announces their programs

Calling All "Yu-Gi-Oh" Players

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St. , will host Yu-Gi-Oh game events on Thursday, January 8 and February 12 from 4-5 p.m. Students in grades three and up are invited to bring their own set of Yu-Gi-Oh cards to play with others. No registration required. Lower level meeting room.

For more information, call the Youth Services Department, 708-422-4990.

# # #

Free "Money Program" for Kids

Personal Banker Dalia Ibarr-Sandoval of First American Bank will teach students in third through fifth grade about saving and spending their money wisely at a free lecture hosted by the Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St. , on Tuesday, January 13 from 4-5 p.m. Advance registration required. Parents are welcome to attend.

For more information about this and other youth activities, call 708-422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

# # #

Free Health Screenings at Library

The Oak Lawn Community Partnership will offer free health screenings 10-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 14 at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St . Blood pressure screenings will be performed by personnel from the Oak Lawn Fire Department. Glaucoma screenings will be offered by Dr. Sandra Bury and Dr. Katherine Narbone of Complete Vision Care in Oak Lawn .

The Oak Lawn Community Partnership is a cooperative alliance between the Village of Oak Lawn and Advocate Christ Medical Center . Their mission is to maintain the highest quality of life for all residents by encouraging collaboration among local government, businesses, schools and the community.

For additional information, call the library, 708-422-4990, or visit the Partnership web site: www.oaklawncommunitypartnership.org.

# # #

Kids "Read to Rover"

Children ages seven and up may gain experience with reading aloud at the monthly "Read to Rover" program offered at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St.

On Saturday, January 17 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., registered therapy dogs from the Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy of Chicago will be on-hand to serve as attentive, nonjudgmental, one-on-one listeners for young readers who sign up for a 15-minute time slot. Advance registration is required at the Youth Services Desk with the child's library card. Participants sign up for each month separately. Preference is given to Oak Lawn residents and students of Oak Lawn schools. This program is also open to special needs children.

For more Information about this and other children's programs at the library, call 708-422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

# # #

Library Hosts Youth Chess Club

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will host a six-week Chess Club for children and young adults in third through tenth grade that meets on Wednesdays from 4-5 p.m., January 21 through February 25. All levels of experience are welcome. Instructions and game boards will be provided, but members may bring their own sets. Advance registration required.

For more information about this and other youth programs at the library, call 708-422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

# # #

China Travelogue

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St. , will host a free travelogue program exploring "The Faces and Places of China" 7 p.m. Wednesday, January 21.

As a corporate executive for Time-Life Asia, Bill Helmuth traveled extensively throughout China . At this slide lecture presentation, Helmuth will uncover hidden wonders and reveal fascinating insights into this ancient country that continues to gain influence on the world stage. This program pushes back veils of mystery to offer a unique glimpse into China 's history, culture, art, architecture and religious traditions, which have evolved over thousands of years.

View a complete schedule of adult programs at www.oaklawnlibrary.org. For additional information, call 708-422-4990.

# # #

Library Community Display Cases

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St. , has two community display cases that may be reserved for one calendar month by individuals, local community groups and organizations interested in exhibiting special collections, handicrafts, activities and creative works. Applications are available at the Reception Booth.

For additional information, call Linda Atkins, public relations officer, 708-422-4990.

Oak Lawn Park District introduces trips and other programs

Funny Girl will run for two consecutive weekends, March 13 – 15 and March 20 - 22. Tickets for the March production are available at the Oak View Center. Prices are $20 for adult and $19 for seniors and children (12 & under). For more information on auditions or the production, call the Oak Lawn Park District at (708) 857-2200.

• Dirty Dancing at the Cadillac Palace Theatre – The Oak Lawn Park District is offering a trip to see Dirty Dancing at the Cadillac Palace Theatre in Chicago on Thursday, January 8. Experience all the excitement and romance of Dirty Dancing as never before, when the classic story comes to life, featuring favorite songs from the legendary soundtrack including "I've Had The Time Of My Life," "Hey Baby," "Hungry Eyes" and "Do You Love Me," plus brand new scenes written especially for the stage. Seats will be located in the Dress Cicle. The wheelchair accessible motorcoach bus will depart the Oak View Center, 4625 W. 110th St., at 6 pm and return at 10:30 pm. Fee for this trip is $95 for Oak Lawn residents and $105 non-residents. For more information please call, the Oak View Center at 708-857-2225.

• Woodfield Mall & IKEA Trip – Join the Oak Lawn Park District as we head back to the original IKEA and Woodfield Mall in Schaumburg on Tuesday, January 13. Enjoy a day of shopping at this 3-story mall and then hop onboard the free trolley and head to the other exciting stores on the way over to IKEA. Lunch is on your own. The wheelchair accessible motorcoach bus will depart the Community Pavilion, 9401 S. Oak Park Ave., at 10 am.and return at 5-pm. Fee for this trip is $20 for Oak Lawn residents and $30 non-residents. For more information please call, the Oak View Center at 708-857-2225.

• Crafty Kids – The Oak Lawn Park District is offering another session of Crafty Kids for tot's ages 3-5 beginning the week of January 5 at the Oak View Center (4625 W. 110th St.). This class provides exposure to various elements of art and shows how art is a part of everyday life. Students may paint, draw, paste and create objects that are created from everyday home materials, teaching children how to create their own "master pieces" out of recycled household items. Classes are offered on Mondays from 2:30-3:30 pm; Tuesdays from 3-4 pm; Wednesdays from 2:30 – 3:30 pm; and Thursdays from 3 – 4 pm. Fee for the Monday class is $30 for Oak Lawn residents and $42 for non-residents. Fee for the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday classes is $40 for Oak Lawn residents and $56 for non- residents.

• Tot Playtime – The Oak Lawn Park District is offering a Tot Playtime program for tot's age 2 ½ - 3 ½. Tots must be potty trained. Classes will be held at the Oak View Center (4625 W. 110th St.) on Mondays and Wednesdays, January 5. – May 13 from 12:30 – 2 pm. Fee is $255 for Oak Lawn residents and $357 for non-residents. Please call the Oak View Center at 708-857-2200.

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McAuley seniors named state scholars

Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School is proud to announce that 57 members of the Class of 2009 have been named Illinois State Scholars.

The students are Ashley Russ of Ashburn Park; Nicole Annes, Bridget Doherty, Caitlin Gallagher, Jenna Garey, Kathleen Kopale, Shannon Majka, Erin McGinnis, Jennifer O'Connor, Gabrielle Pappas, Mary Peplinski, Hannah Pienton, Amanda Shine, Maura Stanton, Monica Sullivan, Megan Szarzynski, Eileen Torpy, Allison Usher, and Chelsey Walsh of Beverly; Andrea Altenbach of Blue Island; Kelly Bartusiak and Hakeela Buford of Burbank; Amelia Gomez of Chicago Lawn; Rebecca Krueger of Chicago Ridge; Katie Beyer, Leanne Burmeister, Christine Durco, Nicole Filippone, Mary Grochocinski, Bridget Prendergast and Margaret Rooney of Evergreen Park; Christine Anthony, Michelle Cortez, Colleen Dixon, Brianne Griffin, Beth Magnavite, Mara Magnvite, Jessica Murray, Tia Puetz and Caitlin Witry of Mt. Greenwood; Kaitlin Hammer of Oak Forest; Madelyne Bagley, Bree Bonnema, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Meghan Glynn, Kristina Karakas, Mary Kobiernicki, Rachel Page, Emily Robinson, Rebecca Susmarski of Oak Lawn; Jessica Carroll, Lyssa Chavka and Kathleen Kaysen of Orland Park; Christine .
AnthonyMichelle CortezColleen DixonBrianne GriffinJesCaitlin WitryErica Lynch and Nedaa Sweiss of Palos Heights; Nicole AnnesBridget Doherty Shannon MaAmanda Shine Kara Scannell and Anna Ortigara of Tinley Park.

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission recognizes Illinois high school students for outstanding academic achievement based on ACT and/or SAT test scores and class rank. Approximately 10% of Illinois' high school seniors are designated state scholars and receive a Certificate of Achievement for the accomplishment.

Mount Assisi Academy receives anonymous donation of $40,000 in support of Guardian Angel and Endowment Funds

Sister M. Ann Barbara Plavac, SSFCR, president of Mount Assisi Academy , announced that the school has received an anonymous donation of $40,000 in support of MAA's Endowment Fund and its Guardian Angel Tuition Assistance Fund, which provides financial support for MAA students.

" Mount Assisi Academy has been blessed by the generosity of a single anonymous donor who has provided a gift that will support our students, especially those whose families are encountering financial hardship," Sister Ann Barbara stated. "We are grateful for this incredible gift, which is an investment in the future of MAA and its students," she continued.

Mount Assisi Academy 's Endowment Fund was established last year in effort to support the future stability and viability of the school. Providing scholarship support for the deserving students is one of the goals of this fund. The Guardian Angel Tuition Assistance Fund provides tuition support to current MAA students whose families are experiencing financial hardship.

For information or to make a donation to either the MAA Endowment or Guardian Angel Tuition Assistance Fund, contact the MAA Office of Advancement at 630-257-7844, ext. 23.

Photo of Service Awardees from Brother Rice H. S.

Brother Rice students receive Sheriff Dart Service Award

The Sheriff's Youth Service Medal of Honor is given to young people throughout Cook County who contributed at least 100 hours of volunteer service to their communities. This is an outstanding honor and the Sheriff's Office is proud to have this opportunity to recognize these young people with this award. Senior Kendall West (Beverly) completed over 100 hours of volunteer service at Little Company of Mary Hospital. Junior Joe Alfano (Beverly) served his 100 hours of service at three different locations. First, Joe volunteered 55 hours at Smith Village Nursing Home where he visited residents. He also spent his spring break in Mexico and volunteered 18 hours helping at a school in a small rural town. Finally, over the summer, Joe went to Australia and spent 30 hours helping marine biologists doing research on the Minke whale. Joe, a certified scuba diver, observed the whales from 60 feet under water.

Brother Rice High School has been named a Top 50 Catholic High School in the United States by the Acton Institute five consecutive years. Since the honor roll's inception in 2004, Brother Rice is the only Catholic high school in Illinois to be named Top 50 in America all five years. Brother Rice continues to be the academic, spiritual, and athletic leader.

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Moraine Valley offers new customer service classes, customized training

Businesses can learn to put the service back into customer service with the help of two classes offered by Moraine Valley Community College 's Workforce Development and Community Services department. Both classes will be offered twice on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills , or can be customized training to be held on-site at local businesses. Classes held at the college cost $40. Understand the process for handling tough customer situations during "Dealing with Difficult Customers," on Fridays, January 16, and March 6, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants will learn how to appreciate the customer's point-of-view, identify common types of difficult behavior and problem types, learn how to apply the six practical steps to customer problem solving, and identify common words or phrases to use when speaking with customers. Knowing how to talk to customers also is critical to having strong customer service, a skill that can be revisited during "Effective Customer Service Communication," on Fridays, February 20, and April 3, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Topics that will be covered include creating a positive moment of truth, understanding a customer centric focus, learning the key attributes necessary to be a customer service advocate, defining the process for creating a positive customer service experience, reviewing and practicing the guidelines for proper phone etiquette, and understanding the role of e-mail as a business communication tool. For more information about either of these classes, call Workforce Development and Community Services, at (708) 974-5735 or visit morainevalley.edu/wdcs. Registration for spring 2009 courses is underway. Students who have applied to the college can register in person at the Admissions, Records and Registration Office, located in the College Center on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills, by calling (708) 974-2110 (TTY for the hearing impaired 708-974-9556), or online via the college's Web site at morainevalley.edu.

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ANOTHER AULD LANG SYNE

I happened to see her walk by as I was standing in the greeting card aisle at the local Hallmark store. I hadn't seen her in a few years but she wasn't hard to recognize. She looked exactly as she did when I saw her last. She was standing in the check out line when I grabbed her by the arm. She was as surprised to see me as I was to see her and we stood there hugging for a long moment.

Gloria was the wife of Bill's late friend, Virgil. Just seeing her opened up the flood gate of memories of a dear friend who literally lived every day to its fullest. He and Gloria met later in life but their age did not define their love. They shared a love like newlyweds until the day he died.

When Virgil was diagnosed with cancer they knew the road would be long and the battle would be fierce but fight they did. Virgil courageously faced every treatment and procedure with hope and faith thanks to Gloria who was always right there by his side, cheering him on every step of the way until the very end. I told her how much we miss him and how we still laugh at his crazy antics. She wiped a tear of remembrance from her cheek and said she missed him too. She then introduced us to a friend of hers - a man who had been quietly standing a few feet away from us. Bill and I took turns shaking his hand and told him it was nice to meet him and then we said good-bye with a promise to keep in touch.

As they walked out the door I watched as she took hold of her companion's arm as she stepped onto the icy pavement. In keeping with the tradition of this time of year I thought about our dearly departed friend. The memories brought a smile to my face. And so did seeing Gloria getting on with her life. She looked happy and content.

If Virgil is able to to look down and see her I'm sure he would agree. This year's song of Auld Lang Syne will be sung with thoughts of our friends Virgil and Gloria. They bring to mind a reminder that family and friends are the riches that make life worthwhile. Another year, another challenge to live life to it's fullest - just as it is meant to be.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Hold the truth like a candle and never let its light fade.

Always be thankful for the precious memories you've made.

Please others but don't always make yourself last.

Pay attention to the little things, they add up to big things rather fast.

You are your best friend or your own worst enemy it's your choice~

Never let an opportunity pass to share your heart and voice.

Every sun rise witnessed, every sunset enjoyed is a gift from above.

When life gets too complicated remember - it's all about the love.

Yesterday is gone, the future is yet to be,

Enjoy life in the present - a gift to share with glee.

Are you ready to tackle what lies ahead as we say good-bye to 2008?

Revel in the new beginnings that are ours yet to create!

Randy Owen, lead singer of Alabama, seated Keith Bilski. Standing Steve Bilski

A couple of Alabama supporters greet Randy Owen

Lead singer of the famous country band Alabama, was in Orland Park at the Borders book store to sign his new book "Born Country" and promote his solo CD "One On One" on December 10th.

Two HUGE fans of Randy Owen, Keith Bilski and his father, Steve, from Oak Lawn IL. who attend many functions and go to many concerts were there to greet him.

"We were near the front of the line to personally great and shake hands with Mr. Owen," said Mr. Bilski. Steve had a chance to speak with Mr. Owen and thanked Mr. Owen for his contribution to the St Jude Children's Cancer Research Center.

Mr. Owen kindly posed for a wonderful photo with Keith and Steve Bilski. Steve has been a delivery person for Village View Publications for 7 years.

Evergreen Park Community High School Psychology class recently played host to a handful of children. The classes had been studying childhood development and to wrap up their unit, they brought young children in to help the students understand the various stages of childhood development.

The children participated in various activities while the psychology students observed and conducted educational tests.

Pictured left to right – Eileen Morlan and Owen Winters.

Evergreen Park Library announces January programs

Sunday Quilters at the Evergreen Park Public Library

Beginning and veteran quilters are invited to join instructor Penny Nichols as she shares her knowledge of quilt design and construction at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy . Participants do not need to bring a sewing machine to these sessions. Sunday Quilters will be held on Sundays: January 11th & February 8th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. For more information: (708) 422-8522

TEEN GAME NIGHT CRANIUM

The Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy , invites teens, grades 6-12, for a night of fun and laughter as they play Cranium. The game will take place on Wednesday, January 14th at 7:00 p.m. For information: (708) 422-8522.

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Aladdin at the Marriott Children Theatre is a delight

by Marijo Doody

What a delightful treat to have children present for The Marriott Theatre presentation of Disney's Aladdin. At a recent outing for the Holiday's my niece and grand-nephew were present for this marvelous program. This is the Marriott's program for young audiences.

The production was based on the 1992 Disney film and it is a magical journey for all ages Aladdin featured the Academy Award-winning score. The production was directed and choreographed by Rachel Rockwell.

The actors certainly responded to the children in the audience during the after production question and answer section. The box-office indicated the production was sold out; however perhaps weather factors kept some away. The audience was full of grand-parents, aunties, and parents with a family outing for children.

Equity actors starring in the production were Bernie Yvon as Genie, Christine Bunuan as Jasmine, Andrew Keltz as Aladdin, Roger Anderson as the Sultan and others. The actors indicated they all star in other Marriott productions.

With the toll road it only takes an hour and a half to get there, in good weather. Next year perhaps some will avail themselves of the programs at Lincolnshire Marriott Theatre for the children shows and other venues.

January Theatre events

by Marijo Doody

Court Theatre & The Museum of Contemporary Art continue the 2008-09 season with the world premiere of Henrik Ibsen's modernized classic "The Wild Duck" directed by Artistic Director Charles Newell running at the MCA stage at the Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 East Chicago Ave, January 15-Feb15, 2009.The play combines comedy and tragedy. This is the inaugural project of the Barbara E Franke Commissioning Program foc New Classics. It creates new adaptations and translations of classic texts for the stage. Tickets are available at the Court Theatre box office 773-753-4472 or online at www.courttheatre.org.

Chicago Shakespeare Theatre world stage presents "The Investigation" by playwright Peter Weiss. It is based on transcripts of the 1964 Frankfort World War II crimes trials. Director/performer Dorcy Rugamba leads the Rwandan company in the powerful revival. Testimonies are presented in a more contemporary content by seven actors from the Congo and Rawanda which experienced genocide firsthand. The production is the Upstairs Theatre Jan 21-Jan 31. The performances are at 7:30pm and 3pm for matinees. Tickets are $46-$ 56 and are available at the box office. Call 312-595-5600. Navy Pier is accessible to public transportation.

Profiles Theatre continues its 20th Anniversary Season with the acclaimed new comedy-drama "Great Falls" by Lee Blessing directed by Profiles Artistic Director Joe Jaharus running Jan 15-through March 1 at the theatre, 4147 N Broadway, Chicago. The play received its World premiere at the 2008 Humana Festival of New American Plays and was a festival favorite. This is only the second time the play has been produced. "Great falls" follows a stepfather and teenage step daughter on a road trip across the American West. The play is the third in the 20th season following the productions of "Men of Tonga" and "The Thugs." The box office number is 773-549-1815.

Northlight Theatre continues its 2008/09 season with the World premiere of "Po Boy Tango" by Kenneth Lin, directed by Chay Yew running January 7-Feb 15 at Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd in Skokie. The play is a celebration of human spirit and the joy of cooking along with friendship. Tickets are $25-$55. The box office number is 847-673-6300 and the web is www.northlight.org.

Gift Theatre begins 2009 season with "Stop/Kiss" by Diana Son and directed by Michael Patrick Thornton (winner of the 2008 Meier Achievement Award and 2006 Jeff Award) beginning Jan 15-March 15 on Thurs and Fri at 7:30pm and Sat at 2:30 and 7:30pm .Son's play about friendship between two girls which blossoms into romance with devastating consequences received a bold storefront staging at Chicago's award-winning Gift Theatre, located 4802 N Milwaukee, Chicago. For tickets call the box office at 773-283-7071 or buy online at www.thegifttheatre.org.

Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs announce a sharing of an artist vision of Chicago at Exquisite City, City of Cardboard, an exhibition running Jan 15-March 15 at Chicago Cultural Center, 77 East Randolph, 1st floor. The Exquisite City, City of Cardboard is curated by Kathleen Judge and produced by Viaduct Theatre.

For more information visit the web at www.exquisitecity.com or call 312-744-2400.

Theatre extensions announced for the winter

Mercury Theatre's smash hit production "The Screwtape Letters" is extended by popular demand through February 15. The Wall Street Journal called it one heck of a good show.

The play is an entertaining and provocative theatrical adaptation of the best selling novel by C.S. Lewis about spiritual warfare from a demon's point of view.

Performances are Wed-Sun. Tickets are $29-$48.50. Call the Mercury Theatre box office at 773-325-1700. The theatre is located 3745 N Southport Ave. The run began in October 2008. For biographical information visit the web www.ScrewtapeOnStage.com.

Steppenwolf's critically-acclaimed "The Seafarer" by playwright Conor McPherson announces a two week extension with a new block of ticket selling the beginning of the year. The extension is through February 22, 2009. The production features John Mahoney (fantastic), Francis Guinan, Tom Irwin, Alan Wilder, Bradley Armacost and Randall Newsome.

Call the Steppenwolf box office for tickets at 312-335-1650. For on line ticketing visit www.steppenwolf.org. The theatre is located 1650 N Halsted.

Only Three Weeks remain Pre-Broadway US Premiere

Dirty Dancing

The Classis Story on State Street at Chicago's Cadallic Palace Theatre

Limited Amount of $44 Main Floor Seats Available

Dirty Dancing – Only three weeks remain before the pre-Broadway US Premiere must close on January 17, 2009.

Dirty Dancing – The Classic Story On Stage is playing at the Cadillac Palace Theatre (151 W Randolph St).

Broadway In Chicago is offering a limited amount of $44 main floor seats for select performances, including the special on January 12 evening performances, during the final three weeks of the Chicago engagement.

This special deal is subject to availability and can be accessed by using the code JOHNNY when purchasing your tickets at any Broadway In Chicago box office, online at BroadwayInChicago.com or via phone at (312) 902-1400. Visit www.BroadwayInChicago.com for additional details.

Dirty Dancing – The Classic Story On Stage is now playing at the Cadillac Palace Theatre through January 17, 2009.

Performances are Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Grease returns to Chicago

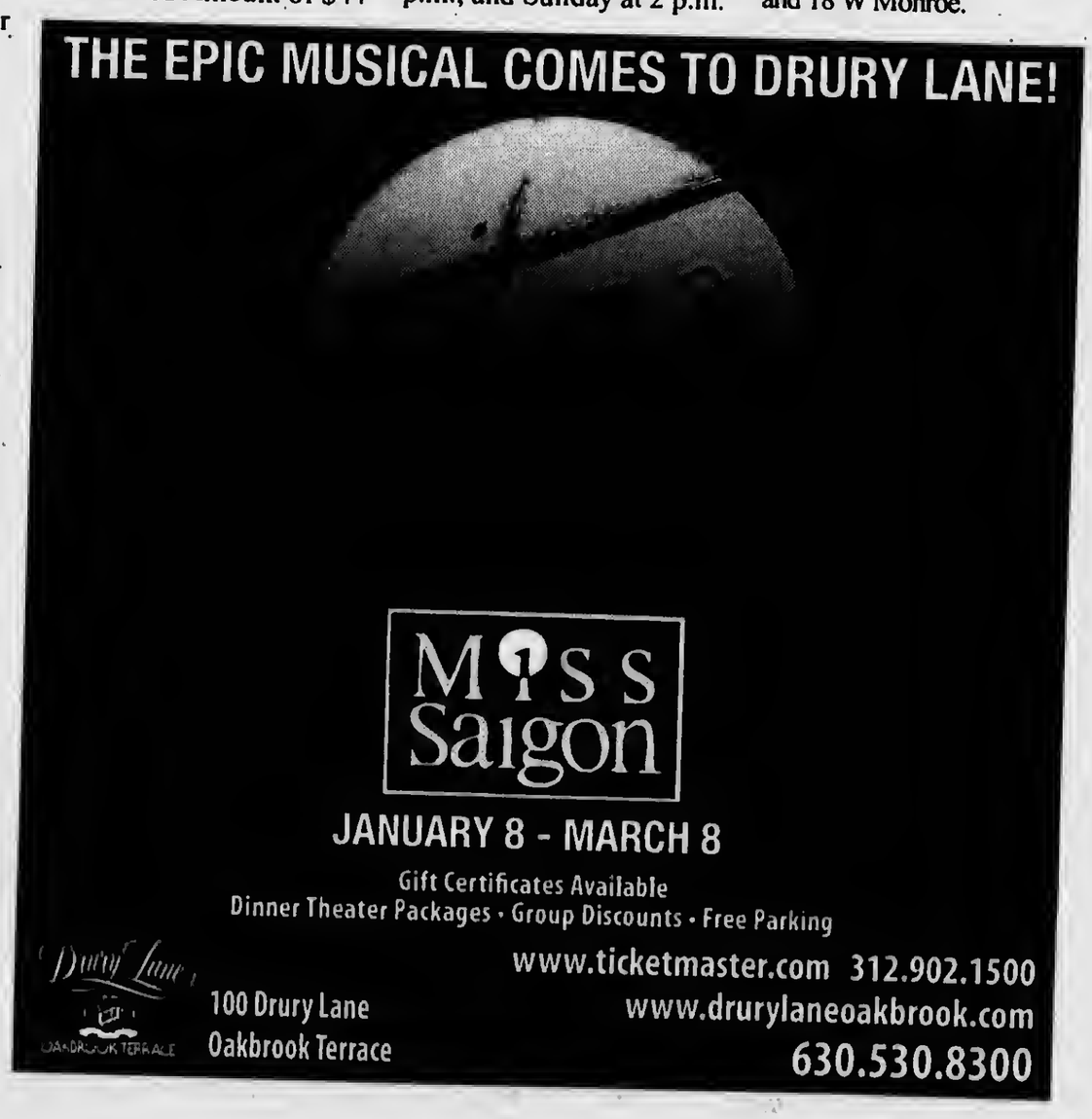
"Summer Lovin" comes to Chicago this January. Just in time for a cold weather reprieve.This limited engagement runs January 6-18, 2009 at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University.

Staring in the Chicago run are Emily Padgett (Sandy), Eric Schneider (Danny) Taylor Hicks (Teen Angel) a Season Five "American Idol" winner, Allie Schultz (Rizzo) a contestant on NBC's TV series special "Grease You're the One I Want."

"Grease" made its premiere at The Kingston Mines Theatre in Chicago in 1971. It had many sold-out performances on Broadway.

The film version produced one of the best-selling soundtracks in history and is the highest grossing movie of all times. Who doesn't remember Travolta/Newton-John duets?

Tickets are $26-$85, call the ticket office line for more information at 312-902-1400. Tickets are also available at all Broadway in Chicago box offices located as follows: 50 E Congress, 24 W Randolph, 151 W Randolph and 18 W Monroe.



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SXU Merwick Academy Spring Sessions

Saint Xavier University's Merwick Academy, which offers tutoring to elementary and high school students, begins registration for its Spring Session on Jan. 12, 2009.

Registration will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday from Jan. 12 through Jan. 23 at the Merwick Academy , located in a tan unit behind Pacelli Hall on the northwest side of Saint Xavier's Chicago campus, 3700 W. 103rd St .

The one-hour classes meet one day a week for 12 weeks Monday through Thursday or on Saturdays. Sessions run through the week of Jan. 26 through the week of April 11, with no classes on Thursday, April 9 and Saturday, March 11 due to the Easter holiday. Those dates will be made up on Thursday, April 23 and Saturday, April 25.

Elementary classes focus on reading, math, language arts and writing, study skills, introductory Spanish and Catholic high school test preparation. High school classes focus on history, literature, Spanish, biology, chemistry, geometry, algebra 1 and II and study skills. Classes are $250 per student with a $100 nonrefundable deposit required at time of registration.

Founded 52 years ago, the Merwick Academy allows students of different cultures, ethnic backgrounds and abilities to interact in the learning process. The academy works with parents, teachers, counselors and administrators to meet the needs of individual students.

For more information, please contact the Merwick Academy at (773) 298-3180 or e-mail koloze@sxu.edu.

Legion Launches VetCam for Families of Military, Vets

No software downloads needed

Military troops deployed overseas can now use their webcams to talk with their families back home without having to download software packages that might not pass muster with command cybernet security requirements.

The American Legion has launched "VetCam," a free webcam service that enables U.S. military servicemembers and veterans to talk face-to-face on their personal computers with friends and family by simply registering as a user. Once registered, each user can connect with two webcams and use the service 24/7 from anyplace with an Internet connection.

"Webcam technology has been around for a while, but many required downloading software to make them work," said David K. Rehbein, national commander of The American Legion. "We want our troops, our veterans, and their families to be able to enjoy the pleasure of talking face-to-face with their loved ones anywhere in the word, with just a couple of mouse clicks. Next to actually being there, seeing and talking with your spouse and kids, mom and dad, and best friends are morale boosters prior generations of veterans never had."

To initiate the service, a user will need a webcam or a computer with a built in webcam. Then, just go to www.legion.org, click on VetCams, register and start communicating. Once registered, simply log in at any time to connect.

All members of the United States Armed Forces (active duty, Reserve and National Guard), members of The American Legion, their families and friends are welcome to use this complimentary technology.

With a current membership of 2.6-million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and patriotic youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through more than 14,000 posts across the nation.

Big Run Wolf Ranch Winter Family Day / Open House

Come Celebrate Groundhog Day with Wilson! Saturday, January 31, 2009 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Admission $2.00. Hot Dogs, Hot Chocolate, Bonfire! Food, Drinks, Clothing, Jewelry, Raffles, Music We accept credit/debit cards for merchandise.

Big Run Wolf Ranch is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, federally licensed, wildlife education facility featuring rescued North American wildlife. Come see "Kuma" the black bear, our 11 wolves, cougar "Charlie", lynx, raccoons, llama, horses, peacock, and many other wild and domestic animals. Come enjoy up close and personal wildlife lectures going on continuously throughout the day along with guided and unguided tours of our facility.

Big Run Wolf Ranch, 14857 Farrell Road, Lockport, IL 60441, (815) 588-0044, www.bigrunwolfranch.org, Email: bigrunwolf@aol.com

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New Years Resolutions Should Include Review of Personal Assets

Given the current economic situation, many people's New Years resolutions this year may be more focused on improving their financial health and less focused on their physical health. The American Society of Appraisers suggests that people do a full assessment of their assets, including those that are often overlooked. Only then can consumers make good decisions about protecting or selling personal assets.

A personal financial review consists of listing all one's assets, including the value of the home and other real estate, cars, bank accounts, retirement accounts, stocks and bonds, etc. What many people forget however, is that their personal assets include the contents of their homes: artwork, antiques, jewelry, collectibles, etc. The value of those items needs to be considered for estate planning purposes, to ensure that they are properly covered by their homeowners or renters insurance policies in case of a loss, and for sale purposes or charitable donation purposes for tax deductions.

"The contents of most people's homes are worth tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars and they don't even realize it," said Susan Golashovsky, Accredited Senior Appraiser of the American Society of Appraisers. "I have an increasing number of clients who want to sell things from their homes or their parents' homes in order to raise cash or who want to donate them for a tax deduction."

The American Society of Appraisers (ASA) offers tips for homeowners or renters to get started reviewing their personal assets.

• Documentation. Take an inventory of the items in your house. Open cabinets and closets and document the contents with video or photos. Make lists of what you own, where you got each item, etc, and keep receipts.

• Make note of potentially valuable items. Make a list of items that you think might be especially valuable, including family heirlooms, artwork, and antique furniture.

• Get an appraisal of valuable items. If you think you have valuable items and want to know more about their value, consult an accredited appraiser. Many appraisers will come into the home and provide a basic consultation about which items in the home might be of greater value and could merit an appraisal. A full appraisal will tell you about the history of the item, its current value, and give you information about the marketplace for this and similar items.

• Review your homeowners or renters policies. These policies have a certain coverage amount for the contents of your home. Do a rough calculation of the value of the contents of your home if you had to replace everything. Does the amount in your currently policy cover it? If not, talk to your insurance agent about raising the limit or get special riders for extremely valuable items. Owning a few pieces or fine art or a few good antiques may mean that the basic coverage in your policy is less than adequate for the value of your contents.

"Appraisals are important documents like wills. They help people prove the exact worth of a piece of property. An appraisal performed by an accredited appraiser will stand up in court, with the IRS, or the insurance company if need be," said Golashovsky.

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call for details on Valentine's Day and Bridal,
in the February 3, 2009 issue.
Call Linda for all details
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Mount Assisi Announces Winners of Spring Fashion Show

Mount Assisi Academy Parents Association, (MAPA), is proud to announce the winners of the Spring Fashion Show invitation design contest. Senior Katelyn Beattie (Chicago) designed the winning save the date card and Sophomore Dyan Lisondra (Bolingbrook) created the invitation. Each piece will be used to announce the event that will take place on April 19, 2009 at Gaelic Park. Tickets are $45.00 a piece and can be purchased through the Parents Association. For more information contact Teri Ferchau, MAPA President, 708-448-9889.

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Far South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 1

January 6, 2009

Residents respond to city's request to clear storm water grates

Oak Forest, Illinois Thanks to the quick response of its residents and business owners, the City of Oak Forest avoided possible flood-like conditions over the holiday weekend. On Friday, December 26, at the suggestion of 4th Ward Alderman Chuck Toland, the city issued an emergency phone notification encouraging capable residents and business owners to shovel snow and break ice covering storm water grates in front of their homes and businesses.

"In times of need, this community pulls together," said Mayor JoAnn Kelly. "It was uplifting to see so many individuals out there making sure the grates were cleared before the thaw."

Among those clearing the way was 1st Ward Alderman Laura Clemons, who received a few calls from residents who were concerned that they wouldn't be able to clear the snow and ice from the grates.

"As soon as the last call came in, I picked up my shovel and headed out," Clemons said. "I saw a lot of my neighbors out on Saturday helping to clear the ice and snow. It's all about neighbors helpingneighbors, and that's what makes this a great community."

The additional manpower was welcomed by the Public Works Department, which had 11 plows and four machines clearing streets and storm water grates during the icy weather.

"Our guys put in a lot of overtime to make sure the storm grates were cleared for the massive meltdown and flash flooding that occurred," said Public Works Director Troy Ishler.

"The residents made our job easier. It's nice to know they are willing to pitch in when you need them."

City employee's daughter saves teen's life

Linda White, permit and development clerk for the City of Oak Forest, always knew her daughter, Julie, was a caring and compassionate teenager. So, it was no surprise when Julie called her at work one day to say she saved a teen's life.

In the April 30 incident, Julie was chatting online with a young man who threatened to commit suicide. Julie successfully gained the teen's address and dialed 911. The Orland Park dispatcher who answered the call quickly notified the local police in Mississippi. Upon arrival, the police found the young man, who was attempting to overdose, and transported him to a nearby hospital where he received treatment.

"I am certain her care and concern for others will propel her to a bright future," White said of Julie, who is double majoring in premed and Spanish at Southern Illinois University. "It really is a pleasure to be her mom."

Operation: Penquins for Patriots

Have you ever seen more than 700 penguins in one place looking for a new home? The Vogt Visual Arts Center (VVAC) in Tinley Park has come up with a unique way to help our troops overseas. In cooperation with the Village of Tinley Park's Veteran's Commission, the VVAC is collecting items from the Soldiers' Wishlist during the month of January to be shipped to the men and women who are away from home serving our country. As a special incentive, anyone who brings in an item for the soldiers will have the opportunity to select a cute and cuddly penguin from the more than 700 that will be on display at the VVAC in January.

Operation: Penguins for Patriots was developed by Julie Sklar, VVAC Director and her, brother, John Wegner. John has been collecting penguins for years but decided it was time to disband the collection. John and Julie came up with the idea of helping the service men and women overseas while putting the collection to good use. "The penguins are adorable, and hopefully we'll get the message to some penguin lovers who would also like to help out the troops," commented Julie. The penguins will be on display at the Vogt Visual Arts Center beginning January 5.

Donations for the troops will be accepted throughout the month of January at the VVAC. The list of the soldiers' needs is available at the VVAC, or online at www.tinleyparkdistrict.org. A special collection weekend will take place on Saturday, January 10 from 10:00 am-5:00 pm, and Sunday, January 11 from 11:00 am-5:00 pm.

It is especially meaningful to offer donations for our troops when they are away from their families during the holiday season. So, come join the fun and stop by the VVAC to drop off items for our troops! Gallery hours at the VVAC are as follows: Tuesday, 6:30-9:00 pm; Wednesday, 4:00-7:00 pm; Thursday, 11:00 am-2:00 pm and 6:30-9:00 pm; Friday, 11:00 am-3:00 pm; and Saturday, 11:00 am-5:00 pm. The Vogt Visual Arts Center is located at 17420 S. 67th Court in Tinley Park. For more information contact Julie Sklar, Gallery Director at (708) 309-4371, or visit www.tinleyparkdistrict.org.

About the Tinley Park - Park District

The Tinley Park-Park District maintains over 420 acres of park lands and recreation facilities including its state of the art Bettenhausen Recreation Center, a full-service Fitness Center, and over 39 community park locations.

Come join the fun at the Bettenhausen Recreation Center

Tinley Park , Illinois, What is there to do on a snowy afternoon in Tinley Park ? How about having fun, while getting a physical workout? The Tinley Park-Park District has the perfect solution: come join the Bettenhausen Recreation Center ! Located at 8125 W. 171st Street in Tinley Park , the Bettenhausen Recreation Center has much to offer its members.

The Recreation Center is a state of the art facility that houses three full-size basketball courts, volleyball courts, an indoor running track, an indoor jungle playground for children age 2-9, and a senior/teen room that offers various games and activities such as card playing, air hockey, a pool table, video games, and ping-pong. Everything you need to participate in any of the activities offered at the Recreation Center is provided by the Park District.

A membership to a facility like this must cost a fortune, right? Wrong! It is only $30 per year for an individual Tinley Park-Park District resident, and $55 per resident couple. If you live in Tinley Park , but are out of Park District boundaries, or work in Tinley Park , or go to school in Tinley Park , the Park District also offers a village/corporate membership. This rate is $45 for an individual and $83 for a couple.

For a limited time, the Bettenhausen Recreation Center is offering new members and renewing members a chance to win a FREE one-year membership. When you purchase or renew a membership by February 28, 2009 , you will be automatically entered in a drawing to win a FREE One-Year Membership to the Bettenhausen Recreation Center! Other great prizes include free passes to White Water Canyon , Tinley Junction Mini Golf, Tinley Fitness and much more!

When purchasing a membership, evidence of residency is required in the form of a current utility bill, tax bill, or voter identification card in addition to a driver's license or state ID. For children, a birth certificate or current school report card with the child's address is required. As another option, the Tinley Park-Park District offers FREE Resident ID cards for children under the age of 15. A parent or guardian must come in with a driver's license and current utility bill, voter identification card, or current tax bill, and a birth certificate for their child to receive a Free Resident ID card. This makes the check-in process at all Park District facilities quick and easy.

With everything the Bettenhausen Recreation Center has to offer there is not a reason why a Tinley Park-Park District resident should not become a member. The facility is open Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. , Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. , and Sunday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., so there is always time to fit in some fun physical activity! Come in today and liven up your winter by becoming a valued member of the Bettenhausen Recreation Center !

For more information, please contact the Tinley Park-Park District at 342-4200 or visit www.tinleyparkdistrict.org

Elements Contemporary Ballet will perform in "The Best of Dance Chicago," hosted by the Village of Orland Park Arts Commission on Saturday, January 17 at the Performing Arts Center at Carl Sandburg High School . Reserved tickets are currently available for purchase at the Frederick T. Owens Village Hall. For more information, call 403-6140. (Photo provided courtesy of Dance Chicago.)

The Best of "DANCE CHICAGO " Returns To Orland Park

Village Arts Commission Brings Downtown Show to Sandburg's Performing Arts Center

ORLAND PARK, ILLINOIS - World-renowned professional dancers will return to Orland Park when the Village of Orland Park Arts Commission presents "The Best of Dance Chicago" at the Carl Sandburg High School Performing Arts Center, 13100 S. LaGrange Road (US Route 45), in Orland Park.

Representatives from the best dance companies in the Chicago area will perform on Saturday, January 17 beginning at 7:30 P.M. Founded by Fred Solari and John Schmitz, "Dance Chicago" celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2004. "Dance Chicago " has become the most diverse and comprehensive exposition of dance in the history of Chicago and is the only festival of its kind in the nation.

Schmitz, who serves as artistic director and curator for "Dance Chicago," explained, "With each show, we tailor it for what the audience enjoys." Schmitz added, "This is a completely different show than what we presented last year," noting that the Orland Park show will feature a range of genres.

"We are very fortunate to have a number of different genres performing on January 17," said Orland Park Arts Commissioner Colleen Panega, who is again coordinating the village's dance event. "This is a magnificent collection that will appeal to all ages, from the very young on up to our seniors," she added.

Some of the performers for the Orland Park show include Phaze II Crosstown Crew, Hip Hop ConnXion, Culture Shock Chicago, Brandon and Serena Ballrom Dancing, representatives from the Joffrey Ballet, Elements Contemporary Ballet, Chicago FootworKINGZ and other professional Chicago area dance companies.

"Students in Carl Sandburg High School's dance group, Orchesis, will share the stage with talent from throughout the world," she noted.

Reserved seating tickets are available at Orland Park's Frederick T. Owens Village Hall, 14700 South Ravinia Avenue . The cost is $15 for adults, $10 for seniors/ students. The Cashier's Office at the Village Hall is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. A limited number of tickets may be available at the door. For more information, call the Village of Orland Park at 708/403-6140.

Celebrating Harris's 10th Season with Fulcrum Point Modern Myths

Fulcrum Point New Music Project continues its 10th Anniversary season with Modern Myths, a dynamic mixed program harnessing music, literature and dance to delve into mythologies from around the world, at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph Drive , Tuesday, January 20, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.

Modern Myths will feature the World Premiere of choreographer Melissa Thodos' Aries, set to Karlheinz Stockhausen's haunting, zodiac-inspired music; the American debut of Delhi-born composer Param Vir's Hayagriva, based on myths from sacred Indian and Tibetan literature; the Chicago debut of Vajrapani, Wielder of the Thunderbolt Scepter, a solo performance piece by Tantric Buddhist dance master Prajwal Ratna Vajracharya; and, finally, fresh off the success of composer Richard Danielpour's "Margaret Garner" at the Auditorium Theatre, the Chicago Premiere of his sensuous song cycle Sonnets to Orpheus, featuring guest artist, soprano Mary Mackenzie.

The program begins with the World Premiere of Aries, a dance work by acclaimed Chicago choreographer Melissa Thodos set to Karlheinz Stockhausen's 2007 score, Aries for trumpet and electronic music. Accompanied by trumpet virtuoso (and Fulcrum Point Founder/Artistic Director) Stephen Burns, along with Stockhausen's mesmerizing electronic music, Aries will be performed by 12 members of Thodos Dance Chicago, each representing a character of the zodiac. Thodos Dance Chicago is a 17-year-old ensemble of well-rounded artists who teach, choreograph and perform contemporary dance.

A musical pioneer, Karlheinz Stockhausen (1928-2007) wrote more than 300 works in various genres from opera and orchestral pieces to electronic music and complex compositions where performers, producers, helicopters, recording equipment, and audiences all together become his instruments. This 15-minute piece is part of a larger musical composition entitled Sirius based on melodies from Tiekries (German for zodiac).

Following will be the Chicago Premiere of composer Richard Danielpour's 1991 six-movement song cycle, Sonnets to Orpheus (Book 1), featuring guest vocalist, soprano Mary Mackenzie accompanied by a ten-piece Fulcrum Point chamber ensemble. The early 20th century Sonnets to Orpheus by German language poet Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926) in its complete form is a two-part set of 55 poems; six will be performed in this romantic and evocative 30-minute program. The New York-based Danielpour, whose compositions combine elements of his Persian roots with the influence of American jazz, has become one of the most sought-after – and honored - composers of his generation. His first opera "Margaret Garner" (written in collaboration with Nobel Laureate librettist Toni Morrison) achieved critical acclaim upon its premiere in May 2005 and was recently performed at Chicago 's Auditorium Theatre. Also New York-based, Mackenzie has worked closely with Danielpour, frequently performing his works including Sonnets to Orpheus, and she has won praise for her "extraordinary musicianship and fearless interpretation of contemporary music."

The concert continues with the Chicago Premiere of the dance piece, Vajrapani, Wielder of the Thunderbolt Scepter, by Tantric Buddhist Dance Master Prajwal Ratna Vajracharya. This 10-minute solo performance piece, a traditional Nepalese tantric dance, is an invocation to Buddhism's fearsome warrior-protector, the mythical Vajrapani.

Vajracharya is considered the foremost living master and premier solo performer of the tradition technically known as Charya Nritya, which means "dance as a spiritual discipline." This sacred dance form is one of the religious arts of the Buddhist priests of the Kathmandu Valley , who perform it as part of their esoteric meditation practices, rituals, and celebrations. Vajracharya founded Dance Mandal: Foundation for the Preservation of the Sacred Arts of Nepal in Kathmandu in 1996. Four years later, he moved to Portland and undertook the challenge of transplanting and transmitting his highly stylized ritual dance form in a Western context.

Completing the Modern Myths program will be the American Premiere of Hayagriva by Delhi-born, London-based composer, Param Vir. The 15-minute Hayagriva depicts the horse-headed being known in Indian and Tibetan sacred literature and art as an incarnation of Vishnu, associated with knowledge and wisdom. The work for chamber orchestra had its World Premiere in Amsterdam in 2005 as a commission by the Schönberg Ensemble. Vir's compositional output includes works in several genres including chamber music, symphonic music and opera/musical theater. Of local interest, Vir was commissioned by the BBC Symphony Orchestra to write a score based on Anish Kapoor's popular sculpture Cloud Gate (The Bean) found in Chicago 's Millennium Park . Between Earth and Sky was premiered by the BBC Symphony Orchestra on November 24th 2006 at Hammersmith Town Hall to much acclaim. Vir will be in Chicago for the Premiere of Hayagriva.

Following the concert, Fulcrum Point will host a complimentary wine & cheese reception - featuring wines generously sponsored by Chicago-based Vin DiVino Ltd. Importers – for audience and artists to meet, mingle and spark conversation.

The 2008-09 season concludes with Dada Machinations, a program of music made and inspired by machines, Tuesday, March 3, 2009 . The Midwest premiere of the original score to Ballet mécanique for 16 player pianos, 3 airplane propellers, 3 sirens, 2 grand pianos, 4 xylophones and bass drums will share the stage with music by Fluxus artist Larry Miller and Dutch composers Jacob TV and Rob Zuidam. In addition, the UIC Fluxus Ensemble will animate the Harris Theater with provoking performance art.

Since its formation by trumpet virtuoso and conductor Stephen Burns in 1998 under the auspices of Performing Arts Chicago, the mission of Fulcrum Point New Music Project has been to champion new classical music and highlight contemporary composers who are inspired and influenced by popular culture, including literature, film, dance, folk, rock, jazz, blues, Latin and world music. ments, and innovative multi-media presentations involving video, dance theatre, and sculpture.

Single tickets for Fulcrum Point New Music Project's Modern Myths concert at the Harris Theater , January 20, 2009 are priced at $30, with student and senior tickets priced at $15. Tickets are available by calling 312-334-7777 , visiting the Harris Theater box office (205 E. Randolph Drive) or on linc at www.harristheaterchicago.org.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 1

January 6, 2009

PHOTO ID: Martinez, Dufficy, Nunez, Maldonado

De La Salle's Tom Dufficy Wins Lawless Award

De La Salle Institute proudly announces that varsity soccer head coach Tom Dufficy has been chosen as the Chicago Catholic League's Tony Lawless Award winner for the 2008 season. For Dufficy, this is the second consecutive season he has been honored with this prestigious plaudit.

"It is an honor to be named the Lawless coach of the year for a second time" Dufficy said. "The hard work of the student-athletes in the classroom and on the soccer field and the continued tireless work of my assistants, Carlos Nunez, Frank Martinez, and Tony Maldonado, is beginning to pay off.

"The four of us think alike, holding the boys to the same set of expectations at both levels. The confidence the younger players exhibit when they come up to varsity makes their transition that much smoother. Experience will do the rest."

Dufficy, a Chicago Ridge resident, guided the Meteors to a 12-8-3 overall record during the 2008 season and a Catholic League White Division championship with a 5-1 reading in league play.

In addition to his duties on the soccer pitch at De La Salle, Dufficy also teaches religion, honors religion and psychology.

De La Salle congratulates Dufficy on his achievement and wishes him every future success.

De La Salle Institute is an independent Catholic secondary school rooted in the tradition of Christian Education begun by St. John Baptist de La Salle. Founded in 1889, its mission has been, and is, to foster a desire for excellence in education. Young people from a variety of ethnic and economic backgrounds are given the opportunity to fully develop their abilities so they may be active, contributing members of our complex changing society.

Someone Always Hears a Child's Prayer

They want warm pajamas or a new blanket. Of course, a doll and a dump truck would be very nice indeed. Winter jackets and mittens always make the wish list. Some ask for music or movies, while others dream of racing cars and teddy bears.

Those are the easy ones.

Curing daddy's cancer, a new job for mom, stopping the eviction – those are the tough ones for the staff at Together We Cope during the holiday.

TWC is a homeless prevention agency based in Tinley Park serving residents from 22 south suburban communities with food, clothing and other assistance during times of family crisis. The agency also makes a big push every year to answer the Christmas wishes of 1,000 needy children through its Adopt a Family program.

The tremendous need at Christmas time is always, somehow, matched by the tremendous generosity of the region's residents. This year 1,000 children were quickly matched with donors in the agency's program to answer Christmas wishes. Youngsters filled out their wish lists, and donors went shopping anonymously. Thousands of wrapped packages piled up at TWC's offices in December, waiting for delivery to the selected families.

"Our donors usually adopt a whole family of children," said Suellen Wolk, community relations coordinator. "We get additional funding at the holidays and we purchase hats, gloves, pajamas or hooded sweatshirts to add to each child's bag of gifts."

The donors are not necessarily wealthy people. Some families, for example, agree not to exchange gifts within the family one year and spend the holiday money instead being Secret Santas for a family of needy children. The gifts are carefully selected and lovingly wrapped, often with notes of good wishes attached. Even families with limited resources get involved, able to grant the wishes of only one or two children. Local businesses, organizations and churches also adopt families of children in this program.

"This simple act of answering a child's Christmas wish gives donors a deep sense of connection, to other human beings and to their community," according to Kathryn Straniero, executive director of TWC. "It is a very satisfying experience, and that is why many of our donors return to the program each year."

But every year brings a few wishes that might not be granted. This year TWC heard from a single mother with five children who faces eviction this month because her landlord went into foreclosure on the building. They also heard from a 10-year-old girl, abandoned at birth and adopted by an aunt and uncle, whose only wish was for a cure for the stage 4 colon cancer that struck the only father she's ever known. Other children wished for new jobs for parents who were laid off from work this year.

"Those children will had presents under the tree this year from the donors in our program, and the families werel assisted with food and clothing from our agency. Another agency is at work trying to find a new home for the family being evicted. There even will be a donation to the American Cancer Society in the name of the 10-year-old whose father has cancer. But I guess we'll have to trust a higher power to answer some prayers this year," Straniero said.

Further information on Together We Cope is at (708) 633-5040.

Together We Cope staff is sorting thousands of gifts destined for some of the neediest children in the southern suburbs this Christmas as wishes were granted by donors in the agency's Adopt a Family program. Pictured are Kathryn Straniero (standing), executive director, and Suellen Wolke, community relations coordinator. (Photo by Greg Rodil)

Attention all Brides or Wedding Anniversary!
If you are getting married, or have an Anniversary, email us your picture and information. Email to vvnew@sbcglobal.net

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B-MAC EDITION

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 1

January 6, 2009

Taxation Without Carbonation

A recent New York Times op-ed backed a new soda tax advanced by New York Governor David Paterson as a potential cure for obesity. This proposal would tax sugary beverages to the tune of 18% and proponents argue that this approach would lead to reductions in consumption similar to cigarettes.

Let's look more closely at the proposal. Besides raising $400 million annually for New York State's coffers, the tax as proposed is regressive; that is, it hurts those least able to pay it. Those who can afford it will continue to purchase whatever they wish. Comparing soft drinks to tobacco is a convenient analogy, but enjoying a soft drink, or an ice cream cone, or some French fries in and of itself is not the issue.

The real problem surfaces when these popular foods and beverages morph into Weapons of Mass Consumption (WMCs). By this, I mean 64 ounce Double Big Gulps which deliver over 600 calories or 500 calorie coffee shop muffins or Monster Thickburgers weighing in at 1,420 calories apiece – before you even order the fries. When these steroidal portions collide with a consumer who can't (or perhaps won't) resist their temptation, waistline mayhem results. Studies show that limiting portions can result in fewer calories consumed. Recent research by the University of Colorado – Denver determined that 120 less calories a day were eaten by those using controlled 100-calorie snack packs versus those eating out of the standard (big) box.

If the government is really sincere about fixing the obesity dilemma, it would focus less on consumers' subsidizing their treasuries and more on how to mobilize the food companies to do the right thing AND make plenty of profits. The government should focus on setting the vision and the goals. The industry, which has the infrastructure and the knowledge, should figure out the logistics.

Unlike the auto gas crunch (where there is a scarcity of available "fuel"), we live in an era of food calorie oversupply. Therefore, government should set limits on the number of calories sold to the American public. One way to do this is to set a guideline for food companies and restaurant chains to lower calories that they sell by 10% in say 3 years. Practically speaking, that might enable consumers to take in 50 fewer calories per day.

Looking to government to solve the obesity crisis is a mistake and this is no exception. Virtually every program to date has proven ineffective. Nutritional labeling requirements, five-a-day fruit and vegetable programs, and food pyramid guidelines have not stemmed the tide of rising obesity rates. In fact, the rate of adult obesity has increased from 14% in 1990 to 34% in 2007. Almost 150 million American adults are now considered to be either overweight or obese. And banning trans fats, while better for heart health, does not lower calories nor reduce waistlines. This is a much more productive way than taxation to lower calorie consumption without depriving the consumer of their favorite foods or penalizing food companies from selling their traditional cash cow brands.

The key is for government to step back and let industry figure out how it can deliver on this commitment. If the Coca-Cola Company decides to sell more Coca-Cola Zero and Vitaminwater, so be it as long as the standard is met. If McDonald's wishes to sell its iconic Big Mac, so be it, but it might have to push its line of (highly profitable) salads and restrict total calories in their combo meals. It doesn't matter. Just as long as the calories come down, everyone wins.

Hank Cardello is chief executive officer of 27°North (www.27degNorth.com). He chairs the annual Global Obesity Business Forum sponsored by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is the author of the upcoming book "Stuffed: An Insider's Look At Who's (Really) Making America Fat" (Ecco, 2009). Visit him online at www.stuffednation.com.

Attention all Catholic Schools: Catholic week is coming up soon,! Call me to advertise at 312-624-8996 ask for Linda

Mother Agatha O'Brien Hall receives ASHRAE award for green innovations

Residence hall earns Excellence in Engineering award

The Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers Inc. presented Saint Xavier University and Environmental Design Systems with a 2008 Excellence in Engineering Award for the design of Saint Xavier's newest student residence facility, Mother Agatha O'Brien Hall. The annual awards recognize achievements in the design of new heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and retrofits.

Dedicated in October 2008, O'Brien Hall is Saint Xavier's second residence hall using the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design "green building" approach. The hall was built to LEED Gold designation standards, which requires a number of sustainable strategies protecting the Earth's natural resources be incorporated in its construction. In 2007, Saint Xavier's Arthur Rubloff Hall received an Illinois Chapter ASHRAE award as well as the coveted LEED Gold designation in 2007, becoming the first university building in the state of Illinois to receive the LEED Gold distinction.

" Saint Xavier University 's second Illinois ASHRAE Excellence in Engineering Award is a testament to the University's commitment to sustainability," said Paul Matthews, assistant vice president of facilities management at Saint Xavier. "We will continue our efforts to achieve climate neutrality, which include green building practices, our new GreenBike sharing program and our Greenhouse Gas Audit for the Presidents Climate Commitment."

The Illinois Chapter awards have recognized outstanding engineering performance for more than 30 years, beginning during the country's first energy crisis in the early 1970s.

The architectural firm Solomon Cordwell Buenz and Associates provided designs for the building. The firm designed three previous residence halls for Saint Xavier, including Rubloff Hall. The construction management firm is Henry Bros. Co. Terra Civil Engineering conducted civil engineering. Environmental Systems Design, Inc. provided a mechanical engineering design.

The energy-efficient 36,664 square-foot residence hall is the sixth co-ed residence hall on the Chicago campus. It was designed to use both natural and mechanical ventilation, with a 50-foot high circular glass stair tower drawing tempered air to assist in summer night pre-cooling and winter heating.

The building uses 100 percent "Green-e" Power from mixed renewable energy products to carbon offset all electrical energy consumed in the residence. The roof features a solar reflection system, the rain garden filters roof water runoff and the indoor air quality in the student rooms is significantly above ASHRAE standards.

O'Brien Hall will now be submitted for a regional ASHRAE award.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

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VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 35 Number 13 January 20, 2009

Cook County Board President Todd Stroger was the featured speaker at a recent meeting of the Lions Club of Evergreen Park. President Stroger outlined the wide variety of functions and services provided by Cook County to its residents. They range from the wide court system to the large public safety and health departments which account for more than half the County Budget.

President Stroger also answered all questions the Lions had about the County government functions and policies. Welcoming President Stroger are 2nd Vice President Stan Urbancyzk, 1st Vice President Terry Summers, Ed McElroy of EM Associates, President Todd Stroger, and Lion President Don Sisto.

For further info on the Lions club you may visit their web site @ http://lionsclubofevergreenparkil.lionwap.org

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce to Host 63rd Annual Installation

Members and supporters of the Oak Lawn business community will gather on Saturday, January 31 to honor the 2009 Officers and Directors of the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce during the 63rd Annual Installation.

The event will be celebrated at the Hilton Oak Lawn. Tickets cost $50 per person and include a cash bar and dinner of beef tenderloin and chicken.

The evening begins with cocktails at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Installation of Officers by Oak Lawn Village President, Dave Heilmann, at 7:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m. The Chamber also will continue the tradition of recognizing winners of its annual Business Awards.

Glen Kato of Hortus Web Design & Marketing will be inducted as the 2009 President of the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Kato succeeds Jackie Truty of Art Clay World U.S.A. Also inducted will be First Vice President, Rita Olsen of the Gateway Motel; Treasurer, Christy Hernandez of Archer Bank and Secretary, John Crivellone of Illinois Security Services. The Chamber's Board of Directors also will be inducted, including Linda Atkins (Oak Lawn Public Library), Phil Barry (Saturn of Oak Lawn), Linda Boll (Hawk Ford), Peggy Burke (First American Bank), Dr. Sandra Bury (Complete Vision Care), Tom Cusack (Cusack Insurance), Larry Deetjen (Village of Oak Lawn), Dr. David Finkelstein (Oak Lawn Foot & Ankle), Greg Foertsch (Harold L. Richard High School), Donna Herpich (Great Lakes Metals), Carrie Horin (Founders Bank), Patti Johnson (Standard Bank & Trust), Larry Lehman (Liberty Tax Service), Rick Luemen (Coldwell Banker), Gene Mondello (Geno's Decorating), Don Murphy (American Family Insurance), Tom Orlowski (Men's Wearhouse), Beth Purcell (Advocate Christ/ Hope Children's Hospital), Michael Riordan (Oak Lawn Community High School), Jeff Reichl (Marquette Bank), Patricia Stasik (Oak Lawn Park District), Mark Wicks (Baja-Sol Tortilla Grill) and Adam Woodworth (The Children's Museum in Oak Lawn.)

Music for the evening will be provided by the jazz trio, "A Week Back." Past President of the Chamber and owner of Annie's, Ltd., Anne Marie Casey will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

The evening also will feature local entertainment by members of the Oak Lawn Community High School Forensics Team and Moraine Valley Community College Theatre Group.

For more information, or to purchase tickets for the dinner, please call the Chamber office at 708-424-8300 or email office@oaklawnchamber.com

Evergreen Park receives village pantry donation

The brief meeting of the Jan. 5, 2009, Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting commenced with Mayor James Sexton wishing all a Happy New Year as well as thanking the public works department for their diligence regarding the removal of snow.

The youth commission reported receiving 37 telephone calls from residents requesting volunteers to help in snow removal. The board was also presented a check for $191 from the 4-grade basketball team's collection for the village pantry. Also on Christmas Eve, five Santa's visited 37 homes.

It was also reported that the Evergreen Park Health Care Facility at 102 and Kedzie Avenue was the recent recipient of a four star rating for outstanding service.

Due to the Martin Luther King Day holiday, the next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20 at 7:30 pm.

The meeting shall commence with a public hearing regarding the proposed appropriation ordinance for fiscal year November 1, 2008 to October 31,2009.

The board also proclaimed January 1 to March 29 as Girl Scout Cookie Sale time.

Mike and Greg deserve accolades from the Oak Lawn Park District

Walking through the halls at Oak View, we can't help but admire the administration desk in the front office, the walls of museum cases and our Boardroom. The detail and pride in construction is evident and is repeated again and again, at the front desk at the Racquet Club, in the entrance doors to the banquet facility at Stony Creek, and the construction of the 19th hole.

The park district is fortunate to have two craftsmen, Mike Boudreau and Greg Fitzmaurice, whose pride in their work is highlighted in every project that they complete. Mike and Greg's expertise extend beyond indoor projects. In the summer Mike and Greg construct our playgrounds and complete their outdoor projects such as the special recreation ball field in which they created a seating area for players and spectators.

With over 30 years of experience at the park district and even more in the field, we are extremely fortunate to have Mike Boudreau and Greg Fitzmaurice, at the park district and we will be enjoying the fruits of their labor for many years to come.

Valentine's Day is February 14, 2009 and advertise your restaurant in our 4 newspapers. Call Linda and let her explain at 312-624-8996.

Love is just around the corner!

Military News

Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Carl F. Lewis is completing training to deploy to Afghanistan with the Illinois Army National Guard's 33rd Infantry Brigade Team in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The brigade will be the backbone of Task Force Phoenix VIII and its mission of training and mentoring the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police. Thirty units in the brigade will mobilize for up to a year, with most of the time spent in Afghanistan.

More than 2,700 soldiers in the Urbana-based brigade completed many of the 130 soldier training tasks in Illinois before moving to Fort Bragg, N.C., for final certification before deployment.

The mobilization for Task Force Phoenix VIII will be the largest call-up of the Illinois Army National Guard since World War II. Lewis, a wheeled vehicle mechanic, is normally assigned to the 634th Brigade Support Battalion. He is the son of Morris W. and Linda D. Lewis of Patton Ave., Tinley Park, Ill. His wife, Toni, is the daughter of Tony Belmonte of Fox Grove Road, Tinley Park.

Army National Guard Spec. Jamaal A. Nowlin is completing training to deploy to Afghanistan with the Illinois Army National Guard's 33rd Infantry Brigade Team in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The brigade will be the backbone of Task Force Phoenix VIII and its mission of training and mentoring the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police. Thirty units in the brigade will mobilize for up to a year, with most of the time spent in Afghanistan.

More than 2,700 soldiers in the Urbana-based brigade completed many of the 130 soldier training tasks in Illinois before moving to Fort Bragg, N.C., for final certification before deployment.

The mobilization for Task Force Phoenix VIII will be the largest call-up of the Illinois Army National Guard since World War II. Nowlin, a man portable air defense system crewmember with six years of military service, is normally assigned to the 634th Brigade Support Battalion.

He is the son of Bill Nowlin of 139th Place, Blue Island, Ill., and Rosie Nowlin of S. Charles St., Chicago, Ill.

The specialist is a 2003 graduate of Dwight D. Eisenhower High School, Blue Island.

Air Force Airman Patrick J. Kurchinski has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, core values; and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate in applied science degree relating through the Community College of the Air Force.

He is the son of Patrick and Nadine Kurchinski of W. Park Lane Drive, Palos Heights, Ill.

The airman is a 2008 graduate of Alan B. Shepard High School, Palos Heights.

Army National Guard 2nd Lt. Warren B. Schmakel is currently deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the official name given to anti-terrorism military operations involving U.S. troops and allied coalition partners.

Active duty and reserve component memb-ers from all branches of the U.S. armed forces have been deployed to support the war against global terrorism outside the borders of the United States. U.S. troops serve in South and Southwest Asia, Iraq, the Arabian peninsula, islands in the Pacific, and Europe. In Afghanistan, reserve component members are assigned to units serving under the U.S. Central Command, headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Fla.

The unified command manages the missions for both military operations and is responsible for U.S. security interests and assets in 27 nations stretching from the Horn of Africa, through the Arabian Gulf region, and into Central Asia.

More than 1.2 million members of the National Guard and Reserve component units continue to perform an increasing number of unique missions that require extraordinary actions by everyday citizens-servicemembers.

The activated National Guard and Reserve members serving overseas are assured of having their civilian job positions open to them upon returning home from their deployment.

A federal law allows returning citizen-military members to retain their re-employment rights. The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense agency, provides assistance to employers of mobilized servicemembers.

The agency gains and maintains active support from all public and private employers of National Guard and Reserve members, including free education, consultation, and mediation for their employers.

Schmakel, a platoon leader with 10 years of military service, is normally assigned to the 634th Brigade Support Battalion, Joliet, Ill.

He is the son of Warren R. Schmakel of 61st St., Downers Grove, Ill., and Christine A. Golden of Hickory Hills, Ill. The lieutenant received a bachelor's degree in 2005 from Illinois State University, Normal, Ill.

Army National Guard Pvt. Bryant E. Horton is completing training to deploy to Afghanistan with the Illinois Army National Guard's 33rd Infantry Brigade Team in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The brigade will be the backbone of Task Force Phoenix VIII and its mission of training and mentoring the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police. Thirty units in the brigade will mobilize for up to a year, with most of the time spent in Afghanistan.

More than 2,700 soldiers in the Urbana-based brigade completed many of the 130 soldier training tasks in Illinois before moving to Fort Bragg, N.C., for final certification before deployment.

The mobilization for Task Force Phoenix VIII will be the largest call-up of the Illinois Army National Guard since World War II. Horton, a food service specialist, is normally assigned to the 634th Brigade Support Battalion, Joliet, Ill.

He is the son of Curtis J. and Anna V. Horton of White Oak Lane, Tinley Park, Ill.The private is a 2004 graduate of Lincoln-Way East High School, Frankfort, Ill.

Army National Guard Spec. Michael A. Rickert is completing training to deploy to Afghanistan with the Illinois Army National Guard's 33rd Infantry Brigade Team in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The brigade will be the backbone of Task Force Phoenix VIII and its mission of training and mentoring the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police. Thirty units in the brigade will mobilize for up to a year, with most of the time spent in Afghanistan.

More than 2,700 soldiers in the Urbana-based brigade completed many of the 130 soldier training tasks in Illinois before moving to Fort Bragg, N.C., for final certification before deployment.,

The mobilization for Task Force Phoenix VIII will be the largest call-up of the Illinois Army National Guard since World War II. Rickert, a communications chief and squad leader with two years of military service, is normally assigned to the 634th Forward Support Company, Fort Bragg, Fayetteville, N.C.

He is the son of Gary E. and Marilyn Rickert of LaPorte Ave., Oak Forest, Ill.

The specialist graduated in the year 2000 from Oak Forest High School.

Army National Guard Sgt. Jaime C. Mariscal is completing training to deploy to Afghanistan with the Illinois Army National Guard's 33rd Infantry Brigade Team in support of Operation Enduring Freedom

Mariscal, a combat medic with six years of military service, is normally assigned to Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry Regiment, Chicago, Ill.

He is the son of Jaime and Theresa A. Mariscal of W. Grange Ave., Oak Forest, Ill.

The sergeant is a 2001 graduate of Oak Forest High School.

The best kept secret in Oak Lawn

There it stood by the side of the road patiently waiting for someone to look at it, rescue it, restore it and return it to the dignity that a tribute to our armed forces rightfully deserves. The Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker was erected in May of 1963 through an initiative of the Oak Lawn Garden Club. It was dedicated to the men and women serving in the armed forces of the United States of America. Some of my most vivid memories of traveling are when my husband would search for highway markers and signs indicating a landmark. Ironically, one memorial that we never turned around to look at was the Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker in our own community. Overshadowed by the Tank for a number of years, the Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker was so easily overlooked that it did not make the pages of "Oak Lawn Story", but the Tank did.

The Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker was located on the north side of 95th Street and Columbus Drive near the railroad crossing gates. Because of its 95th Street (Route 12/20) location our main street became a Blue Star Highway.. The highway marker once stood proudly at 71/2 feet tall now stands less than 5 feet tall. Time, weather and neglect took a toll on the condition of this memorial marker and it is now in need of repair.

The Blue Star Memorial Highways came to life in 1944 when the New Jersey State Council of Garden Clubs in cooperation with the New Jersey State Highway Department planted 8,000 dogwood trees. Each dogwood tree represented a living tribute to a man or woman from New Jersey in the armed forces during WW II. Attractive and native plant materials continue to be and integral part of the Blue Star Memorial sites.

The Blue Star name was chosen from the flags on homes of families who had a son or daughter in the service during the Second World War. Donations for the project came from corporations, organizations, clubs, and individuals inspired by the cause. In 1945 the National Council of Garden Clubs decided to extend the program nation wide and a uniform memorial marker was adopted.

Today it is a pleasure to share the news that the Oak Lawn Blue Star Memorial Highway marker will be restored to its original state through the initiative of the Oak Lawn Garden Club. In addition, the Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker also received confirmation of a new location from the Village of Oak Lawn.

The new location will be on the North West corner of 95th Street and Raymond Avenue. We have come this far thanks to the support and cooperation from Mr. Chad Weiler, Village of Oak Lawn Director of Operations, Ms. Jane Quinlan, Oak Lawn Village Clerk, Mr. Alex Olejniczak, Trustee 94 District, Mr. Larry Deetjen, Oak Lawn Village Manager, and Mr. Steve Barrett, Director of Public Works. If you would like to help contribute to this worthy cause, contact Julie Barker, 708-636-0838.

Illinois Humanities Council request your attendance

How will you participate in next week's Presidential Inauguration? Are you going to Washington D.C.? Or will you join in electronically from your home or office? Whatever you choose, one thing is sure: the inauguration of Barack Obama as our 44th president will be an opportunity to celebrate his historic election and to reflect on the seriousness of the challenges that the new administration will face. We know that the President-elect is a student of history. He has looked to the words of past presidents, such as Abraham Lincoln, for inspiration, guidance, and the theme of his inauguration.

In this spirit, the Illinois Humanities Council has created "I do solemnly swear...:" Reflecting on Great Inaugural Addresses, a resource guide that highlights great inaugural addresses given by presidents during times of conflict, challenge, or great change in the United States.

We offer a series of reflective exercises accompanying these inaugural addresses and hope that you might consider them alone, or alongside others, as you anticipate the historic moment to come.

If you are in the Chicago area, we also invite you to attend a Café Society discussion on the inauguration during the week of January 19-23.

Do you plan to use this resource with friends, family, co-workers, or other groups?Email us at ihc@prairie.org and let us know how you are reflecting on the inauguration.

Together We Cope holds their annual dinner dance

Cope' hosts a night outTogether We Cope, a homeless prevention agency based in Tinley Park, hosts its eighth annual dinner dance and silent auction Friday, Feb. 20 at Odyssey Country Club in Tinley Park. TWC serves families in crisis from 22 south suburban communities, and this is a major fundraising event for the agency.

Tickets are $75 per person or $675 for a table of 10. Raffle tickets are available in advance for $25 each for a chance to win $1,000 or various other prizes. During the silent auction, bids can be made on many other items donated for the event.

Further information is available from Karen Moran, fundraising coordinator, at (708) 633-5040. Together We Cope is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit agency that served more than 23,000 people last year.

Hyatt Regency McCormick Place goes a little nuts in February

Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, 2233 S. Martin Luther King Drive, Chicago, Illinois, will support National Healthy Heart month by offering hotel guests complimentary packages of California Almonds throughout the month of February. Studies show that a daily ounce of almonds, rich with vitamin E, fiber and protein, can help maintain a healthy cholesterol level. Hyatt Regency McCormick Place is proud to provide travelers with smart snacking tips through support of the "Almonds for a Healthy Heart" program. The offer is available while supplies last. For reservations at Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, call 312.567.1234.

About Hyatt Regency McCormick Place

Hyatt Regency McCormick Place currently has 800 guest rooms, 43,000 square feet of function space, and a 12,000 square foot Grand Ballroom. The hotel features Daily Grind coffee shop; three restaurants – Forno, an Italian trattoria, Shor, a Chicago grill, and M/X, a sleek, high-energy lounge with small plate dining; a lobby bar; a full service Business Center with Wireless High Speed Internet and an indoor pool and health club facility.

The hotel is situated directly next to McCormick Place Convention Center , minutes from U.S. Cellular Field, and near downtown Chicago 's many attractions including Lake Michigan, the Field Museum and the Magnificent Mile.

Complimentaryshuttle transportation is available to downtown Chicago . Hyatt Regency McCormick Place is only 10 miles from Midway Airport.

For reservations or more information,call312567.1234 or visit www.hyatt.com. Diners will receive parking validation for the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place parking garage.

Dr. Ken Wilcox

People you should know

For some people learning means studying schoolbooks, for others it is a lifelong journey. Dr. Ken Wilcox, a resident of Smith Crossing, a continuing care retirement community (CCRC) at 10501 Emilie Lane in Orland Park, qualifies for the latter category.

Like so many of his generation during World War II, Wilcox, now 85, went directly overseas after he graduated from high school. During the War, he served as a bombardier navigator. When he returned home to Rock Island , Ill., he enrolled in medical school at University of Illinois .

During his 57-year career in internal medicine, Wilcox was on staff at St. George Hospital and Palos Community Hospital , when it opened, and finally at Holy Cross Hospital .

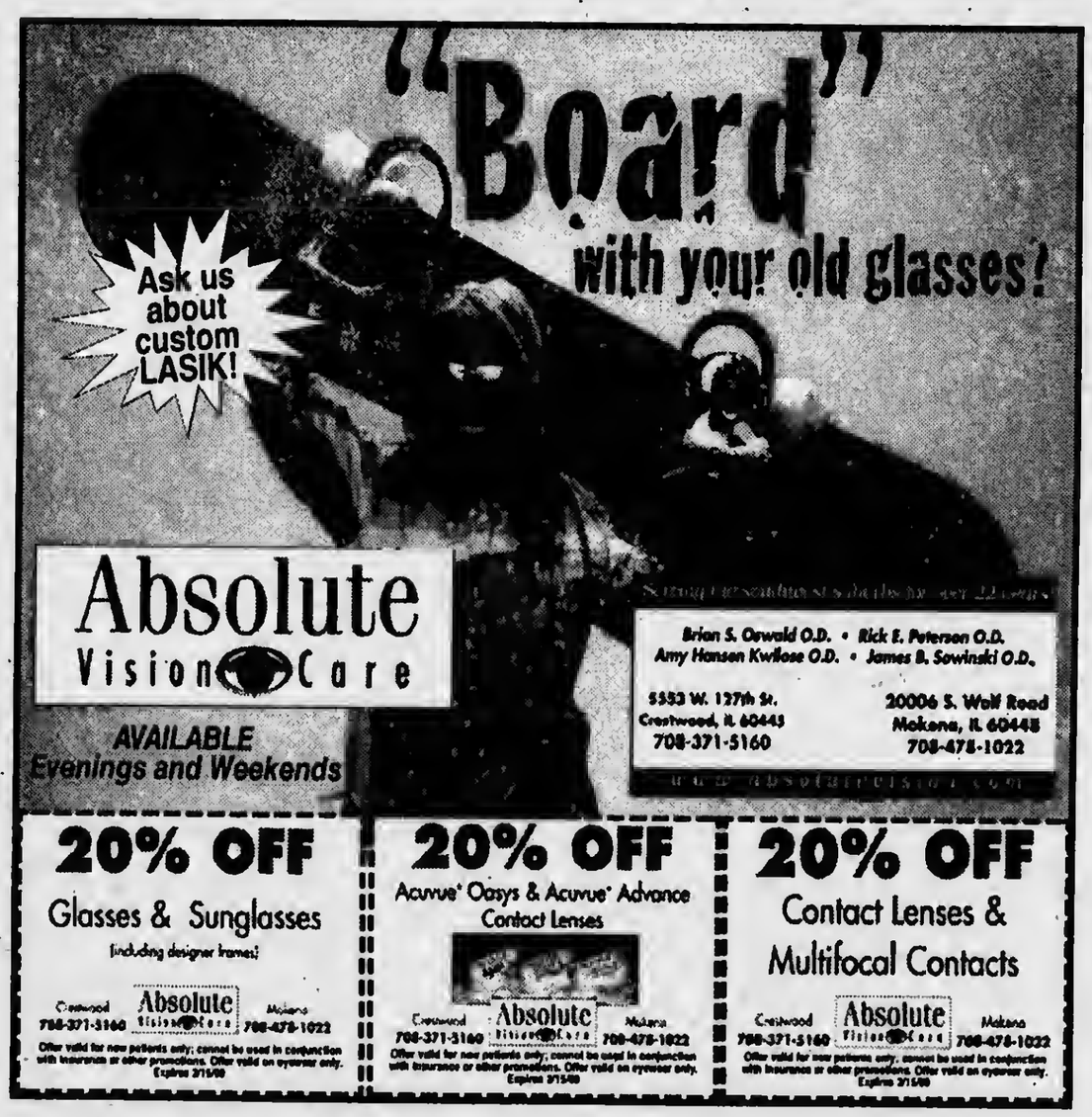
Before he retired from Holy Cross, Wilcox served as Chief of Medicine and later Chief of Staff, and he also was Chair of the Department of Medicine.One of his most memorable outposts, however, was thousands of miles from Chicago. **Service in Africa changes life for family.** In 1963, Wilcox, then 45 years old, and his wife Evelyn traveled with their three school-aged children to London , where he studied tropical medicine.

From there they moved to Tanzania for four years where he worked in a hospital in the small town of Kiomboi. "The experience was like moving back in time," says Wilcox. Not only did he coordinate the complete renovation of the hospital and treat patients, he hunted wild game to feed his family. "The role of a physician is very different there,"

continue on page 5

Art will be visible at the Cook County Treasurer's office

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas (center) will present an art exhibit, The Holy Crown of Hungary, and exhibit about its history and its relevance in her downtown Chicago office on January 20 through February 10. Pappas regularly hangs artwork in her office. At left is Hungarian consul general Istvin Mezel. At right is Csaba Zongor, of the Hungary Cultural Advisory Council of Chicago and president of the Polish Hungarian World Federation. The exhibit marks the 30th anniversary of the Holy Crown from the United States to Hungary.



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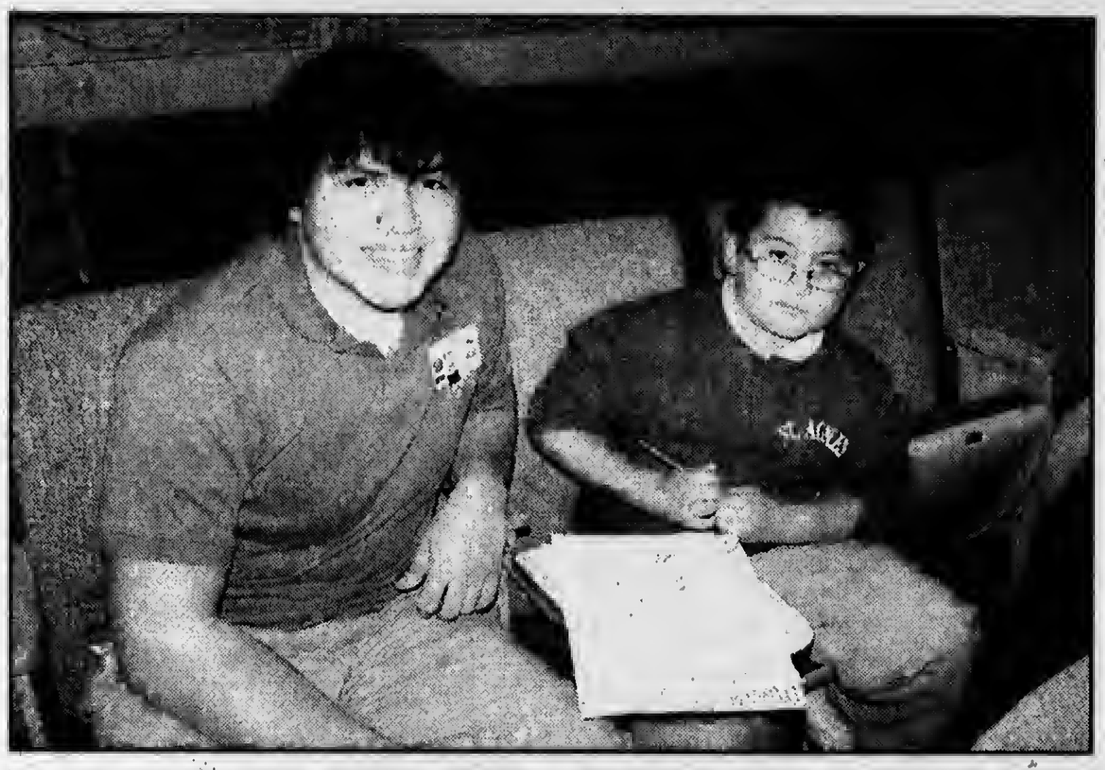

St. Rita of Cascia High School sophomore Richie Garcia (St. Mary Star of the Sea) works on a project with his pen pal from St. Agnes of Bohmeia. Classes from the two schools participated in a semester-long project engineered by St. Rita Creative Writing teacher Miss Lauren Condon.

Rita Writers Pal Up with St. Agnes Students

St. Rita of Cascia High School sophomores who took a Creative Writing elective in the Fall Semester had a unique opportunity to share their linguistic gifts with a younger generation, as they participated in a pen pal program with second graders at St. Agnes of Bohemia School in the Little Village neighborhood. The project was spearheaded by Miss Lauren Condon of St. Rita and Miss Allie Nowak of St. Agnes.

"I thought this pen pal project would be a good opportunity for the Rita sophomores in this class to share their writing talents with students who are just developing theirs. Written correspondence has become increasingly informal these days, so we made sure to focus on technical aspects of letter writing as well as encouraging imagination and style."

Each Rita sophomore in the class was paired with a second grader from St. Agnes, and each pair was given a notebook they used to write back and forth all semester. They exchanged notebooks once a week in an effort to get to know each other better. Additional activities for the Rita students included making Thanksgiving word searches for their little buddies. The project culminated with the second graders taking a field trip to St. Rita. The student pairs ate lunch together, worked on a Christmas project, exchanged small gifts, and competed in a trivia contest to see who knew their teacher better. The second graders from St. Agnes were victorious, knowing Miss Nowak better than the Rita students knew Miss Condon.

The success of this project demonstrates that creative teaching is just as important as creative writing, as well as highlights the great things that happen when young people reach out to others in their community.

Photo: St. Rita of Cascia High School sophomore Richie Garcia (St. Mary Star of the Sea) works on a project with his pen pal from St. Agnes of Bohmeia. Classes from the two schools participated in a semester-long project engineered by St. Rita Creative Writing teacher Miss Lauren Condon.

continue from page 3

says Wilcox. "I was in charge of medical care, administration and every detail of running things, even ordering the toilet paper. I also had responsibility for a different societal role. I would meet with the president of Tanzania who at that time was Julius Nyerere. It was a heady experience in some ways." Evelyn, a nurse, trained young African women in the latest nursing practices and techniques.

Their children Robert, Theodore and Kathleen learned Swahili and made up new games to entertain themselves. " Africa was a wonderful place for us and our children," Wilcox recalls. "The experience changed our lives." The first week he began working in Tanzania, Wilcox performed a Caesarean section. He hadn't scrubbed in on this procedure for many years and was nervous about performing it. But, he says modestly, "The mother and the baby survived. And so did I!" It was the first of many experiences that expanded his medical and cultural horizons.

Continues his education in his retirement

According to Wilcox, living in a villa at Smith Crossing has helped to free up time for him to pursue his interests and take care of a few family healthcare situations.

When he and Evelyn, first moved to the community, she had to have two knee replacements and then back surgery. Even as a physician, Wilcox feared that he would have had trouble caring for her on his own. But with the meals and services Smith Crossing provides they had the support they needed not only to help Evelyn pull through her recovery but also to free up time to fill their retirement years with the activities and interests that they love.

Because of the time he spent in the Army, Wilcox was late starting medical school and he didn't get the chance to take all the college classes he would have liked. As a result, he has worked throughout his life to, in his words, "catch up."

Today, he facilitates the Great Books course at the Renaissance Academy at Saint Xavier University, where he's led discussions of Dante's "Inferno," "The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire" and many other classics during the past three years and he looks forward to facilitation new, stimulating book discussions in the years to come..

"The last thing I want is to lose my intellect," says Wilcox. "Continuing to use my mind is an important way to keep my abilities." He, therefore, is an avid reader who pores over books, magazines and newspapers to stay connected to the world.

He also is active in Wycliffe Assoc., an organization that aspires to have the Bible translated into all the languages of the world. There are 7,600 languages currently spoken and the group has translated the Bible into all about 2,300 of them.

About Smith Crossing

Residents of Smith Crossing find their vibrant lifestyle well-suited to keeping active and engaged in their community. They enjoy options for flexible dining in a handsome Main Dining Room, as well as access in the same building to a barber shop/beauty salon and a fitness center with full-time specialist. Villas and spacious one-andtwo-bedroom independent living apartments are available at Smith Crossing with a host of services and amenities, including an exceptional healthcare package.

Additionally, on the same campus there are assisted living, Alzheimer's and memory support residences, and skilled nursing care accommodations. Smith Crossing—which is one of only 15 CCRCs in Illinois to be awarded a five-year term of accreditation for "exemplary conformance" to international standards set by CARF-CCAC, the industry's sole accrediting body—is part of the highly regarded Smith Senior Living communities in the southwestern region of metropolitan Chicago. The not-for-profit organization established its first community in 1924 in Chicago 's historic Beverly neighborhood.For more information about Smith Crossing call 708-326-2300 or visit smithcrossing.org.

Mrs. Kathy Augustyn

Evergreen Park Community High School Chemistry Teacher honored

Evergreen Park Community High School chemistry teacher, Kathy Augustyn, was recently nominated by 2008 EPCHS graduate, Jessica Rodela, for the University of Chicago's Outstanding Teacher Award.

The University of Chicago invites its entering freshmen to nominate an educator who has changed them, challenged them, or helped them along the path toward intellectual growth.

Jessica's letter was one of hundreds of letters submitted in which she described Mrs. Augustyn as a teacher who literally changed the course of her life, taught her to re-imagine texts, develop deeper into problem-solving, and think beyond the borders of the classroom in pursuit of her own education.

Kyle Symanski nominated for Good Citizen Award

Evergreen Park Community High School principal, Mr. William Sanderson, is pleased to announce that senior Kyle Symanski was chosen as the Evergreen Park High School nominee for the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award.

This award is given to a senior who best depicts the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism. Symanski was chosen by the Evergreen Park Community High School faculty and will move on to the national level.

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Photograph: Samantha Ringberg, Elizabeth Willson, Taylor Blattner, Katherine Bonneville, Robin Kollmon, Lauren Ward, Emily Kross, Jillian Jerry, Colette Meany, Nicole Cassidy, Ariel Ward, Melynda Geraghty, Jessica Hoenselaar, QuiShante Dennis, and Kaylin Schrader

Spartan cheerleaders get chance of a lifetime

The Oak Lawn Community High School cheerleaders had the opportunity of a lifetime, to perform in front of 75,000 fans in Jacksonville, Florida. That chance of a lifetime came about when they were invited to perform in the Gator Bowl parade on New Year's Eve and in the halftime show on New Year's Day. What a start to the new year for some young local athletes.

The Spartans were the only representatives from Illinois and worked with more than 200 other cheerleaders and dancers from around the country for the performance. They also worked with a well-known choreographer to learn new techniques, choreography and style of performance. The group left on December 29 and returned on January 2.

OLCHS coaches Sophie Theodossopoulos and Jamie Rydberg took the squad of fifteen girls down for the exciting experience after working very hard to raise enough money for the trip.

"All the fundraising and planning was completely worth it," Theodossopoulos said. "Watching the girls perform was exciting."

The cheerleaders who performed over winter break were Taylor Blattner, Katherine Bonneville, Nicole Cassidy, QuiShante Dennis, Melynda Geraghty, Jessica Hoenselaar, Jillian Jerry, Robin Kollmon, Emily Kross, Samantha Ringberg, Lauren Ward, Elizabeth Willson, Ariel Ward, Colette Meany, and Kaylin Schrader.

"It was long and stressful, but it was a good learning experience and I had fun with my roommates," said sophomore cheerleader Meany.

The girls continued the fundraising in Florida and practiced even harder for hours during rehearsal.

"The nine-hour practice on the Tuesday when we were down there was the hardest part," Ringberg and Jerry said in unison. "However, seeing more than 60,000 people in front of you while performing made it worth it. It was fun going out there and performing."

Doody's Doodlings

by Marijo Doody

Musichorale, under the direction of Jeffry Silhan, presented the 62nd Christmas concert titled **"Twas the Noel"** at Trinity College/Ozinga Hall in Palos Heights, Il. The concert was a great success. They had the biggest crowd ever for a Christmas concert. They ran out of programs and the parking lot was filled. Rehearsals are now resumed for the spring programs at 9000 S Ridgeland in Oak Lawn. Call 773-239-6279 for more information.

A member of Musichorale's daughter Lauren Ritchie has won the 2008 Mahoney's Road to Fame singing award. Lauren is from Burbank Illinois, went to Reavis High School where she was active in theatre, orchestra (flute) and sports. She played softball in the Burbank Park District. She is a proud White Sox fan. Lauren received her degree from Columbia College in Music Management and Marketing. Her parents nurtured her love of music and she is now chasing her dream as a national touring vocalist. Instilled in her is the drive of Chicago's Southside.

Broadway in Chicago's Grease was recently in Chicago after the revival on Broadway. The author co-creator Jim Jacobs was in the audience opening night and it was noted by Eileen LaCario, Vice President of Broadway in Chicago, the play was written in Chicago at the old Candlelight Theatre and it had its premier at the Kingston Mines.

The Beverly Morgan Park Community Choir will begin rehearsals for the 2009 concert on Sunday January 18 at Immanuel United Church of Christ, located 9815 S Campbell in Evergreen Park. The group's Director is Jeffry Silhan. Rehearsal time is 3:30-5:30pm. The concert is set for Sunday March 29 at 4pm at St John Fisher Church. For more information call Vivian Nash Chairperson BMPCC at 773-322-0078. Singers come from all denominations of faith churches in the surrounding area and from all walks of life and ages. Music is most inspirational and healing.

Drury Lane Oakbrook's "Miss Siagon", a touching Broadway musical and international sensation was set in 1975 in the days before Siagon's fall to Communist forces at the end of the Vietnam War. The romantic characters played by Kevin Vortmann (Chris) and Melinda Chau Smith (Kim) and the Engineer (Joe Foronda) all gave stellar performances. The whole program was marvelous from sound design by Ray Nardelli and Joshua Horvath, projections, direction Rachael Rockwell, Roberta Duchak (music direction) and Stacey Flaster (choreography). Kim (Melinda Chau Smith) noted at the gathering after, that Stacey Flaster was a joy to work with as she kept everyone in stitches and loose. Stacey is one of the most talented choreographers around the area. Foronda and Smith have been in the National Touring Company for "Miss Siaigon". Play projections of the children left are most poignant and that is a result of all war. "Miss Siagon" has been seen by over 30 million people in 25 countries, premiered at Theatre Royal in London in 1989, opened on Broadway in 1991 and closed in 2001 after a run of over 4000 performances. It won the Tony Award and had 11 nominations. It is the 10th longest running musical. Do not miss this revival in our area and it runs through March 8. Performances are Wed-Sun. Meal/theatre packages are available. Call the box office at 630-530-0111 for information and reservations. One can also visit the web for bookings at www.ticketmaster.com or www.drurylaneoakbrook.com.

Chicago Shakespeare Theatre current run of "Macbeth" had Macbeth returning home from battle and he and Banquo are approached by the famous witches with strange prophecies. The play is shrouded in mystery and superstitions, with all the blood and gore. World events of today sadly mirror Shakespeare's plays with corruption, power and greed rooted in so many governments, Macbeth's reign seems all too familiar.

Barbara Gaines, play director and Artistic Director of Chicago Shakespeare Theatre has come a long way since the days on Dearborn as was noted by several major critics prior to the current play. They all said that CST is now the place to be for very fine theater in the Chicago area. The Regional Tony Award for 2008 hangs proudly in the lobby for all to see. Magnificent theatrical performances were gives by Ben Carlson (Jeff Award Winner from CST last year), Philip James Brandon (as Malcolm) Karen Aldridge (Lady Macbeth) and Kate Buddeke, Angela Ingersoll and Mike Nussbaum the witches. The cast recently celebrated Nessbaum's 85th birthday. In the "Macbeth" end, the assent of Malcolm as king is most poignant for today's world situation as he looks like our new President Obama. It is beautifully done, directed by Barbara Gaines. For tickets or more information visit the web at www.chicagoshakes.com.

Volunteer of the month at Oak Lawn Park District

Theatre critic for Village View Publications received an award from the board of Commissioners of the Oak Lawn Park District on January 12, 2009. Marijo Doody, resident of Evergreen Park received this outstanding award for her volunteer work for the past 8 years, ushering at the Oak Lawn Park District Theatre. After retiring in 2001 as a chemist, Marijo didn't know what was instore for her. She became a member of the Italian American Women's Club in Evergreen Park, joined bowling, golf and bridge teams, currently a board member of the Southwest Symphony Orchestra Board, member of Musichorale, Beverly Morgan Park Community Choir and St. Bernadette Choir. Marijo believes in staying active and enjoying friendships.

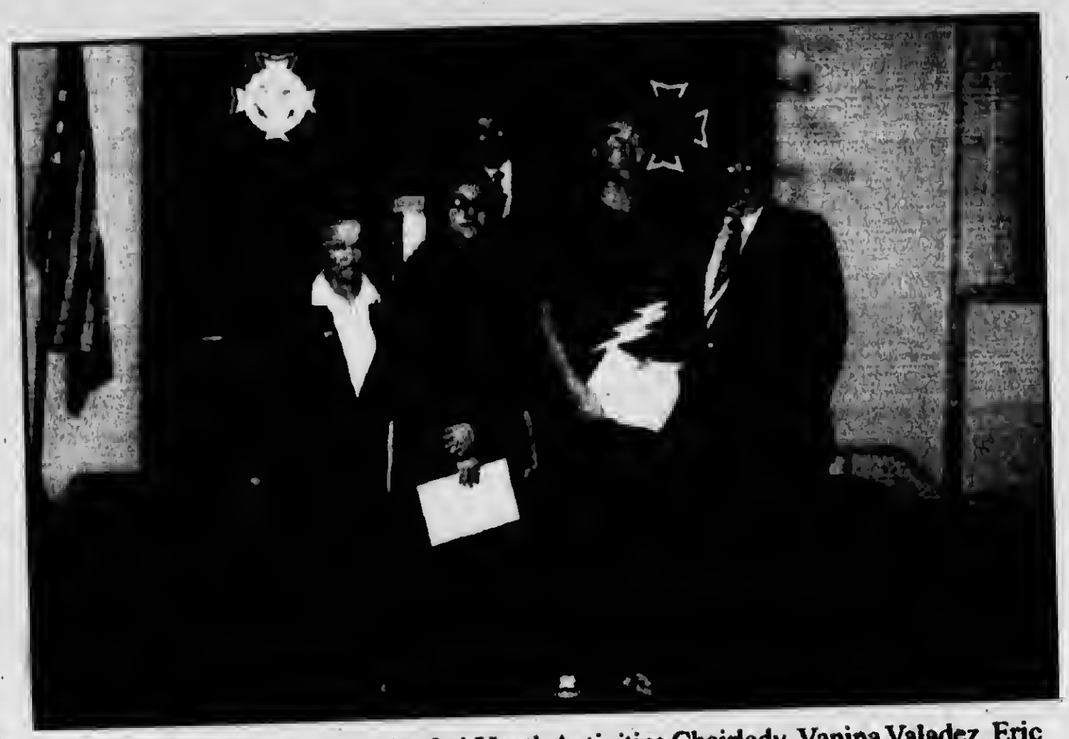
St. Patricia Open House & Registration

St. Patricia School 's annual open house and registration will be held Sunday, February 1st. Families are welcome to visit the campus at 9000 South 86th Avenue in Hickory Hills from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Informational brochures, guided tours, and refreshments will be available.

Founded in 1960, St. Patricia School has a long tradition of academic excellence fostered in an environment of Catholic values. Our challenging Pre-K through 8th grade curriculum also offers dedicated computer science, general science w/ lab facilities, Spanish, music and art programs and academic tournaments. It also offers a wide array of extra-curricular activities, including scouting, football, basketball, soccer, volleyball, cheerleading, band, choir, school play, and the school newspaper. Essential to working families is the affordable on-site before and after-school care provided to students, where they receive a nutritious snack and a safe environment for homework and activities.

The open house and registration culminate the celebration of Catholic Schools Week. If you are unable to attend the open house, contact the school to arrange a tour during normal school hours (7:45am – 2:15pm). For registration information, call the school office at (708)598-8200. www.stpatriciaparish.com

New this year! An additional opportunity for perspective Pre-K and Kindergarten students will be held on Wednesday, February 18th at 6:00pm. We welcome all interested Pre-K and Kindergarten students and their parents to tour and participate in a mini classroom session with the St. Patricia Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers. Refreshments will be served. Please register for this special event by calling the school office at (708)598-8200.



Pictured Left to right Ruth Sorgenfrei, Youth Activities Chairlady, Vanina Valadez, Eric Cheung and Peter Buck, Patriot's Pen Chairman. Dina Calderon was absent for the picture. Rear row: Bill Muth VOD chairman.

Youth Patriot's Pen Essay Contest winners

The 3rd District Veterans of Foreign Wars, consisting of 14 VFW posts, announced the Youth Patriot's Pen Essay Contest winners at an award presentation at the Johnson Phelps Post 5220, Oak Lawn, IL. All local level post winners were eligible entrants. Each school winner was previously awarded a U.S. Saving Bonds or a check at individual school or post ceremonies.

The District winners were selected by a distinguished team of judges consisting of: Fran Setaro, Dr. Neil Hodur, and Bob Bridgeman . The first place award was presented to Eric Cheung, an 8th grade student at Robert Healy Elementary School, Chicago IL. sponsored by Mark White Square VFW Post 6870. Second place winner was Vanina Valadez, an 8th grade student at St. Albert the Great School, Burbank, IL. sponsored by Johnson Phelps VFW Post 5220. Third place was won by Dina Edith Calderon, an 8th grade student at Heritage Middle School, Summit,IL. sponsored by Des Plaines Valley Memorial Post 6863.

The winners were presented a Youth Essay Award Citation and a monetary award. Eric Cheung's essay will advance to VFW Department of Illinois for the State judging. The top 45 national winners all receive at least a $1,000 savings bond. The 1st place national award is currently a $10,000 savings bond plus an all expense trip to Washington, D.C. for the winner and a parent or guardian.

The Bridgeview Public Library and AARP are working together

The Bridgeview Public Library along with a representative from AARP is offering free tax assistance and preparation. Taxpayers with low and middle income, with special attention to those age 60 and older are qualified to be apart of this program. The library is requiring anyone interested to call and make a 1 (one) hour appointment. You MUST be registered. Walk-ins will not be accepted.

Bridgeview Public Library 7840 W. 79th St. (708) 458-2880 ask for the Reference department.

An AARP representa-tive will be available starting on Monday, February 9th from 10 am till 1 pm., Monday, March 2nd from 10-1, Monday, March 16th from 10-1, and Monday, April 6th from 10-1. AARP is asking that you bring the following with you when you come:

*current year's tax forms and preparation booklet;
*copy of last year's income tax return(s);
*W-2 forms from each employer; * unemployment compensation statements;
*SSA-1099 form if you were paid Social Security benefits;
*all 1099 forms (1099-INT, 1099-DIV, 1099-B,etc.) showing interest and /or dividends and documen-tation showing original purchase price of sold assets;
*1099-misc. showing any miscellaneous income;
*1099-R form if you received a pension or annuity;
*all forms indicating federal income tax paid;
*dependent care provider information (name, employer, ID, Social Security number);
* all receipts or canceled checks if itemizing deductions;
*Social Security cards or other official documen-tation for yourself and all dependents.

Programming for Oak Lawn Library including Lincoln's Bicentennial Series

Free Movie: Miss Potter

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St. , will host a free screening of the feature film "Miss Potter" on Thursday, January 29 at both 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

This 2006 movie, starring Renée Zellweger and Ewan McGregor, tells the story of Beatrix Potter, author and illustrator of "The Tale of Peter Rabbit", and her struggle for love, happiness and success. Rated: PG. 92 min.

For more information, call 708-422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

A Rescue Plan for Your Investments

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will host a free financial planning seminar offering "A Rescue Plan for Your Investments" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 3.

Financial Advisors Geoff E. Peterson and Eric R. Degnan, CMFC, of Waddell & Reed, Inc. will share strategies for how investors and retirement planners can recover from the stock market downturn. Learn about living benefits, financial planning, asset allocation and other timely topics.

Discover a new path for investing in your future in today's economy.

View a complete schedule of adult programs at www.oaklawnlibrary.org. For additional information, call 708-422-4990.

Library Hosts Lincoln Bicentennial Series

In honor of the 200th birthday of President Abraham Lincoln, the Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St. , will host a series of free public programs during February 2009.

* **Movie Screening of "Young Mr. Lincoln"** on Thursday, February 12 at 11 a.m.: Director John Ford's 1939 fictionalized account of Lincoln as a young lawyer, played by Henry Fonda. Rated: G. 100 min.

* Main Street Illinois on Monday, February 23 at 7 p.m.: John Lynn has visited all 2,400 towns in Illinois . This slide lecture will reveal the unique histories, traditions and personalities of their main streets.

View a complete schedule of adult programs at www.oaklawnlibrary.org. For additional information, call 708-422-4990.

The Battlefield Balladeers in Concert

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St. , will host a free concert with "The Battlefield Balladeers" from 2-3 p.m. Sunday, February 8.

Dressed in historic Union and Confederate soldier uniforms, this vocal-instrumental duo will perform toe-tapping, sing-along favorites from America's Civil War era on the guitar, banjo, harmonica, tambourine and mandolin.

Listen to and learn about songs written for the war, popular music from minstrel shows, Stephen Foster favorites, as well as sentimental, patriotic and humorous songs, each with a historic quote or explanation as to why the song was important at the time.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Lawn Library.

This program is part of the library's Lincoln Bicentennial Series in February 2009.

View a complete schedule of adult programs at www.oaklawnlibrary.org. For additional information, call 708-422-4990.

Images of Honest Abe

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will host a free art lecture exploring "Images of Honest Abe" 7 p.m. Monday, February 9.

Art Historian Jeff Mishur of Art Excursions, Inc. will present a slide lecture that examines depictions of our 16th President in paintings, photographs and sculptures.

Learn about how visual representations of Lincoln changed during the course of his political career and after his assassination.

KATHY'S KALEIDOSCOPE

kathywhirity@yahoo.com
Web Site~ www.kathywhirity.com

THOUGHTS FOR A NEW YEAR

In three words I can sum up everything that I learned about life, **"It goes on."**

When the going gets tough, make yourself realize that no matter what your problem is, someone is and always will be fighting a harder battle.

Tears don't help problems and whining won't make things better.

Have faith but understand that faith makes things possible, not easier.

Have hope but understand without doing anything nothing gets done.

Be there when people need you, because in order to have friends you must first be one.Make the impossible, possible.

Never give up!You only fail when you fail to try.

Keep an open mind; you never know what you may learn.

Never compromise your standards for anyone, do it for you.

Remember that laughter makes the world go round.

Beware of the person who has nothing to lose, see through the problem to find the solution.

Don't make promises that you can't keep.

Keep in mind, those who gossip to you will gossip about you.

Say only what you mean, and don't believe everything that you hear because some day the story will be about you.

Everyday is a gift, even if it sucks.Count your blessings, not your troubles.

Never waste an opportunity to tell someone that you love them, because you never know what tomorrow has in store for you.

Give people a second chance, because no one is perfect.

Love all that you can, give all that you have, smile away your days, and dream away your nights.

Life, what a wonderful thing! May 2009 be everything you hoped it would be.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK~ Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man. (Benjamin Franklin)

Village Encourages Congratulatory Messages for "Marching Eagles"

Organizations and Businesses with Changeable Signs Asked To Help

The Village of Orland Park is encouraging local businesses and organizations with changeable signs to congratulate the Carl Sandburg High School Marching Band. On Jan 20, the band will represent Orland Park and the State of Illinois , having been selected to perform in the Inaugural Parade in Washington , D.C.

"This is an outstanding opportunity for the band to represent their school and community, making themselves and their families very proud," said Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin. "I can't wait to see them marching down Pennsylvania Avenue ," he added.

The Village of Orland Park has a message posted on its sign at the entrance to the Village Center at 147th Street and LaGrange Road . The Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce has asked its members with changeable signs to post messages for the Eagles headed to Washington , D.C. and the Orland Fire Protection District is lauding band members with messages on its firehouse signs.

"The entire community is very proud of the Carl Sandburg High School Marching Band. This is one of those rare opportunities that they'll always remember," the mayor said.

Fundraising efforts to send the band to Washington, D.C. continue and contributions may be made through Sandburg's Music Boosters' website at www.sandburgmusic.org or by mailing a check to Sandburg Music Boosters, in care of the high school at 13300 South LaGrange Road; Orland Park, IL 60462. Sandburg's Music Boosters is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, making donations tax deductible.

McLaughlin added, "One of our nation's preeminent symbols is the eagle. The Sandburg band marching in the Inaugural Parade will be quite a picture — all those eagles marching with the capital behind them."

Bridgeview Public Library offers free Tae Kwon Do lessons to all kids.

Join us starting January 22 as we "kick" off the first class of Tae Kwon Do. The classes are 3 weeks long and the dates are as follows: January 22, January 29, & February 5th . All kids that call to register must have their parent's permission to attend these classes.

Children will get to participate in learning new Tae Kwon Do moves that will help build and develop physical co-ordination and a greater sense of balance. These classes will also help the kids gain positive attitudes, concentration, self-control, discipline, respect, integrity, focus, patience, self defense, confidence, and responsibility.

For any questions please call the library at (708) 670-4822 and ask for the Children's department.

Winter/Spring Registration

The Tinley Park-Park District is now accepting resident registrations for all Winter/Spring programs and events begins. Non-resident registration begins January 26.

Residents and non-residents can take advantage of the Park District's convenient on-line registration system. Anyone interested in using the on-line system must first obtain their user name and password from the District by calling 708/342-4200. Registrants will no longer have to wait to see if they get into a program or activity. With on-line registration, they will know immediately and will be able to print a receipt as confirmation of enrollment. The Park District's on-line system is safe and secure, and customers' personal information is never shared with anyone.

The line-up for this winter/spring includes lots of exciting new programs, trips, and special events for all ages. Be sure to register early as many programs and events fill up quickly! For more information contact the park district at 708/342-4200.

The City Colleges benefit from the President's Community Based Joob Training Grant

The U.S. Department of Labor awarded nearly $123 million to 68 community colleges and community-based institutions that competed successfully under the President's Community-Based Job Training Grants Initiative. Awardees were chosen from among 274 applications received in response to a competition announced Oct. 10, 2008.

The City Colleges of Chicago for Malcom X College in Chicago will receive more than $1.6 million to address the critical shortage of healthcare workers in Illinois by increasing capacity and training opportunities within 6 of the college's allied health programs.

"The $123 million awarded today will expand enrollment in education and training programs, and provide more workers with the skills they need to succeed," said Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao.

Introduced by President Bush in his 2004 "State of the Union " address, Community-Based Job Training Grants improve the ability of community colleges to provide their regions' workers with the skills needed to enter growing industries. The first round of 70 competitive awards was revealed on Oct.19, 2005. The second round of 72 awards was made on Dec. 11, 2006. Sixty-nine awards from among third round competitors were announced on March 11, 2008.

In slightly more than three years, approximately $497 million now has been awarded to 279 community colleges and community-based institutions in 49 states to promote the U.S. workforce's full potential. Through the first three rounds of these grants, more than 34,000 individuals have completed their education and training, and nearly 85,000 people have participated.

The 68 grants awarded will support projects in 36 states including Illinois.

For more information on the Department of Labor's employment and training programs and the President's Community-Based Job Training Grants, visit http://www.dolcta.gov/business/Community-BasedJobTrainingGrants.cfm.

Call about our Health issues. If you are a nursing home, retirement center, Senior Center, medial clinic, dentists, and more. Call Linda and she will explain our rates and coverage areas.
Call 312-624-8996

Nine of ten Moraine Valley occupational graduates employed

Moraine Valley Community College occupational graduates report high satisfaction with their college experience and have a high level of employment. Eighty-six percent of the graduates in 2007 were employed with 50 percent working within the college district.

The annual Moraine Valley survey conducted in spring 2008 found that 64 percent of the 304 survey respondents were employed full time and 22 percent were employed part time.

About a third of the graduates said they were continuing their education. Seventy-five percent are employed in jobs related to their Moraine Valley degree.

The health program area had the highest proportion of graduates employed in a related field—82 percent.

Overall, occupational graduates were satisfied with their Moraine Valley experience, especially courses and lectures, lab experiences and individual projects in their major programs.

Make-up Catholic High School Entrance Exam

Due to the inclement weather, Mount Assisi Academy will hold a make-up Entrance Exam on Saturday, January 24 at 8:00am for any 8th grade girl who has not taken another Catholic High School Entrance Exam.

Arrive by 8:00 am with two #2 pencils, a calculator and the $25 testing fee. Call Mrs. Auskalnis (Mrs. A) for more details at 630-257-7844 ext

Our Town Joey

Our Town coming to Lookingglass Theatre in February

Tickets for Lookingglass Theatre Company's production of Our Town by Thornton Wilder, directed by 2008 Tony Award-winning Steppenwolf Ensemble Member Anna D. Shapiro and Steppenwolf Artistic Associate Jessica Thebus, will be on sale to the public. The production is scheduled to run February 11- April 5, 2009, at Lookingglass Theatre Company.

Tickets, $30-$60, are available online, www.lookingglasstheatre.org; by phone, (312) 337-0665; or at Lookingglass Theatre Company, located inside Chicago 's historic Water Tower Water Works, 821 N. Michigan Ave. at Pearson. For more information and box office hours, visit www.lookingglasstheatre.org.

The citizens of Grover's Corners share the ultimate tale of community in this American classic. The Lookingglass Ensemble will infuse the play with a singular chemistry you won't see anywhere else. In the hands of these renowned artists, Thornton Wilder's masterpiece will be disarmingly beautiful, utterly compelling and painfully funny.

Our Town will feature Lookingglass Ensemble Members Thomas J. Cox (Ensemble), Christine Mary Dunford (Mrs. Webb), Laura Eason (Emily Webb), Raymond Fox (Ensemble), David Catlin (Dr. Gibbs), David Kersnar (Simon Stimson), David Schwimmer (George Gibbs), Joey Slotnick (Stage Manager), Heidi Stillman (Mrs. Gibbs), Tracy Walsh (Ensemble), and Andrew White (Mr. Webb), and Artistic Associates Kevin Douglas (Ensemble) and Louise Lamson (Rebecca Gibbs).

Our Town opens February 11 for preview

Times: Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m.

Thursdays: 3:00 p.m. only on March 5, 19 and April 2, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

Fridays: 7:30 p.m. except April 3, 2009

Saturdays: 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Sundays: 3:00 p.m.

7:30 p.m. only on March 1, 15, 29, 2009

Location: Lookingglass Theatre Company, located inside Chicago 's historic Water Tower Water Works, 821 N. Michigan Ave. at Pearson.

Writers Theatre presents *Old Glory*

Writers' Theatre had announced Brett Neveu's "Old Glory" , a world premiere production was commissioned through Writers' Theatre Literary Development Initiative. William Brown directs the production that runs February 3-March 29 at Writers' Theatre, 325 Tudor Court in Glencoe.

Old Glory is part of a trilogy. Neveu comments, "The subject matter, the general tone of the play and how war affects people at home are the linking devices. The plays are about regular people and how they are dealing with what the American government has done in Iraq and what people ask of each other in times of crisis. The trilogy is a response to terrorism, people not trusting each other and deceit within the American government. If the plays were only about the Iraq War it would ground them too specifically in time. I think they speak past the present day to a place where people relate to each other."

For tickets call the box office at 847-242-6000 or visit on line at www.writerstheatre.org.

Celebrate winter in Millennium Park Feb 7-8

Grab your scarf and mittens and head out to Millennium Park for a weekend of free fun during Frozen Fun Fest. Find your way through a kid-sized maze, ice games, and pose for an ice portrait while enjoying festive performances and drinks to keep you warm.

The Chicago Office of Tourism is pleased to host this fun filled weekend for children and families from February 7-8. Activities will be held each day from 10am to 4pm at Millennium Park's chase Promenade.

The Frozen Fun Fest will feature the following activities: Ice Skating (at the McCormick Tribune Ice rink), Ice Maze, made of 100 blocks, Ice Games, including corn holes, ring toss and penny pitch, Brrrrr Blocks, kids build and create masterpieces, Ice portraits to take home, Performances, theatrical and musical strolling encourage visitors to move with the performers to keep warm, Winter Walk in the Garden, at Lurie Garden and Warm Drinks.

The Chicago Office of Tourism, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, is the official city agency dedicated to promoting Chicago to domestic and international visitors and to provide innovative visitor programs and resources. For more information please visit www.cityofchicago.org/toursim. One can call 1-877-CHICAGO also.

Black Ensemble Theatre kicks off *I Gotcha, the Story of Joe Tex and the Soul Clan*

The Black Ensemble Theater Company is thrilled to continue its Season of Men with the World Premiere production of "I Gotcha" (The Story of Joe Tex and The Soul Clan).

Written by Joe Plummer and David Barr, and produced and directed by Black Ensemble Theater Founder and Executive Director Jackie Taylor, "I Gotcha" tells the story of legendary Soul Man Joe Tex.

Preview performances for "I Gotcha" will begin January 24 at the Black Ensemble Theater, 4520 N. Beacon Street.

Joe Tex was a complex man torn between stardom as an innovative soul singer and his devout dedication to the teachings of The Honorable Elijah Mohammed. "I Gotcha" is an amusing and provocative look at Joe Tex during the most critical part of his lifetime, and – in true Black Ensemble Theater style, will identify with both his strengths and weaknesses as a human being through music.

The audience can enjoy songs like Skinny Legs and All, Show Me, Hold On To What You Got, and many others. In this moving World Premiere, "I Gotcha" writers Joe Plummer and David Barr do not forget the music legends that made up the Soul Clan – the great Solomon Burke, Wilson Pickett and Ben E. King, featuring some of their most famous hits including Solomon's Cry To Me, Wilson's Midnight Hour, and Ben E. King's This Magic Moment.

"Creating great music with an uplifting, inspirational message and a little history on the side is what we do at Black Ensemble Theater" notes Black Ensemble Theater Founder and Executive Director Jackie Taylor, "and I am thrilled to continue this trend in our Season of Men by paying tribute to the legendary Soul Man, Joe Tex."

The Black Ensemble Theater cast for "I Gotcha" includes Michael Bartlett (Dancer), Carin Blackmore (Balaliah, Joe's wife), Daryl Brooks (Solomon Burke), Rashada Dawon (Jean), Shakila Grigler (Johnnie Mae), Vincent Harris (Wilson Pickett), Lyle Miller (Joe Tex), Magellen Watts (Ben E. King), and Cory Wright (Dancer).

On-stage music will be directed by Jimmy Tillman (who will also be on drums) and arranged by Thomas (Tom Tom 84) Washington.

Musicians include Derrick Barnes (piano), Hank Ford (saxophone), Paul Howard (trumpet), Bill McFarland (trombone), Bernard Reed (bass), and Kenn Smith (guitar).

Performance Schedule & Tickets

"I Gotcha" will be staged Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. , and will run through March 15, 2009.

Preview performances will be Saturday, January 24 at 8pm ; Sunday, January 25 at 3pm ; Friday, January 30 at 8pm ; and Saturday, January 31 at 8pm . Opening Night will be Sunday, February 1 at 3:00pm . Preview tickets are priced at $40 and regular tickets are $45. Discounts are available for students, seniors, and groups. Tickets are available by calling the Black Ensemble Theater Box Office at 773-769-4451 , or Ticketmaster at 312-902-1500 or the web at www.ticketmaster.com. Group Tickets are available by calling 773-769-4451.

Tinley Park Park District holds auditions

The Tinley Park-Park District's Arts Alive! Community Theater group will hold open auditions for their production of Come Blow Your Horn, written by Neil Simon.

The production will be directed by Mike Gandy, assisted by Kathleen Mirabella. Auditions will take place on Sunday, February 8 at 1:00 pm, and Monday, February 9 at 6:30 pm, at the Bettenhausen Recreation Center, 8125 W. 171st Street in Tinley Park. Anyone interested in auditioning may contact Laurie Fanelli at (708) 342-4200 for additional information. Adults age 18 and up are encouraged to audition, regardless of acting experience.

Performances of Come Blow Your Horn will take place May 1-3 at Tinley Park High School. Rehearsals will be held on evenings and weekends beginning in February. Production volunteers are also needed. If you'd like to assist behind the scenes, please contact the Park District at 708/342-4200.

The Tinley Park-Park District maintains over 420 acres of park lands and recreation facilities including its state of the art Bettenhausen Recreation Center, Tinley Fitness – a full-service fitness center, and 40 community park locations. The Tinley Park-Park District was established in 1967.

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Wellness Center

How to Prevent Diabetes with Diet and Lifestyle Change

By Mary Ann Hodorowicz, Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator

1 – 3 pm, Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009
Includes new glucometer and refreshments!

Lillian Rune Wellness Center
14930 S. Cicero, Suite 3D, Oak Forest, IL
Pre-registration required. Call: 708-535-9335

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CRAFTRERS WANTED
Tinley Park-Park District
Spring Arts & Crafts Fair
Saturday, March 14
Registration information available at
www.tinleyparkdistrict.org
708-342-4200

Photograph (L-R): OLCHS students Kyle Loesche and Samantha Dawe work with their small engines teacher Mr. Young.

OLCHS Small Engines Class Supports Recycling Efforts

For the past four years, Mr. Roger Young, industrial technology and small engines teacher, has been reading about a high school teacher in Minnesota who teaches "Chopper Class." The students use donated parts to make motorcycles.

Inspired by this idea, Mr. Young put an article on Craig's List looking for equipment donations for his autos class. He received an e-mail from a gentleman in Bolingbrook who offered Mr. Young a few mini bikes that his nephew no longer used. Since OLCHS is promoting recycling, Mr. Young and his students are assembling these bikes using as many used parts as they can.

Mr. Young hopes for donations of equipment to rehab and sell in order to bring in money for the program. Some students have even offered to give up time before or after school to work on the projects.

January Free Days at the Museum of Science and Industry

Escape the Winter Weather and Find Your Inner Scientist at the Museum Jan. 5 – 31, 2009!

WHAT: The Museum of Science and Industry will be offering FREE general admission for everyone from Jan. 5 – 31, 2009. This is a great time to escape the winter blues and entertain your brain for FREE with live science demonstrations, interactive exhibits and a look into the *Green Revolution*, our 2009 Black Creativity exhibit, opening on Jan. 15 and running through March 1, 2009.

Green Revolution explores green technology and innovation and features African-American architects, designers, engineers and leaders in the green movement. See some of the latest innovations in renewable energy, organic agriculture and sustainable building, while trying your hand testing soil samples, building a playground from recycled materials—and more. The Museum's Black Creativity program began in 1971 to present exhibits that recognized African-American achievements. *Green Revolution* will be supported with a juried art exhibition, a family day and educational workshops. Check the Museum's Web site for a listing of events.

HOURS: Monday – Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADMISSION: General Admission: $13 for adults, $12 for seniors, $9 for children 3-11, but will be free Jan. 5 – 31, 2009. Omnimax films are $7 for adults and seniors; $5 for children 3-11. U-*505* on-board tour is an additional $6 per person. Parking in the underground garage is $16.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS TO MAKE NOTE OF FOR YOUR LISTINGS:

Smart Home: Green and Wired, Powered by ComEd—Re-open and Updated for 2009!

March 19, 2009 – Jan. 3, 2010

The "Greenest Home in Chicago" re-opens in spring 2009. Discover the new *Smart Home* interior, reinterpreted with the help of *Chicago Home + Garden* magazine, and featuring bold colors, fresh green stories, products and furniture. Explore the home's updated landscape, which offers techniques for urban gardening, including vertical gardens and EarthBox planting. This exhibit is not included in general admission and requires a ticket and specified entry time. Tickets, which include Museum general admission, are $23 for adults, $22 for seniors and $14 for children 3-11.

Harry Potter: The Exhibition—World Premiere! April 30 – Sept. 7, 2009

Harry Potter: The Exhibition will hold its world-premiere run at the Museum of Science and Industry. Guests will get an up close and personal look at the artistry and craftsmanship that went into creating the iconic props and costumes that appeared throughout the Harry Potter™ films. More than 200 authentic artifacts will be displayed in elaborate settings inspired by locations from Hogwarts™ School of Witchcraft and Wizardry including the Gryffindor™ common room, Hagrid's hut and the Great Hall. This exhibit is not included in general admission and requires a ticket and specified entry time. Advance tickets are currently only available online at www.msichicago.org.

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Leading Window and Exterior Remodeling company in the Southwest Suburbs is looking for motivated sales people with strong communication and customer service skills. Prior sales experience desired. $50-$100K.
Please fax resume to (708) 423-2021 or email to kjsully76@yahoo.com

Have you thought about advertising your Service Company? We have a Service Directory, Classified, Wanted, and Crafters Corner ads. Call for Special Rates, at $15 and up. Call Linda for details 312-624-8996

Part Time Salesperson Needed
Experinced in Cold Sales,
Must have a car
Must be Computer Literate
Willing to work in Orland Park, Tinley Park, and Oak Forest area.
Willing to except Tax 1099 at the end of the year.
Contact Linda 312-624-8996

Rock Hall of Fame Inductee Dave Mason to Perform Free Concert at Local Best Buy Store

2004 Rock Hall of Fame Inductee, Dave Mason will perform a FREE concert Tuesday, January 27th at the Best Buy store located at 1432 Butterfield Road , Downers Grove . Mason will be signing autographs immediately following his performance.

Dave Mason has achieved considerable success with hit songs "We Just Disagree" and "Feelin' Alright," which he recorded with Traffic in 1968. His musical career has spanned four decades and he has played with some of the most popular musicians of the rock 'n roll era including Jimi Hendrix, Paul McCartney, The Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton and Fleetwood Mac.

The concert is promoting Mason's new solo album which contains 12 tracks of Mason's signature vocal and guitar handiwork. *26 Letters and 12 Notes* is available at Best Buy stores nationwide on the Out The Box Records label.

Mason is available for on-site and in-studio interviews.

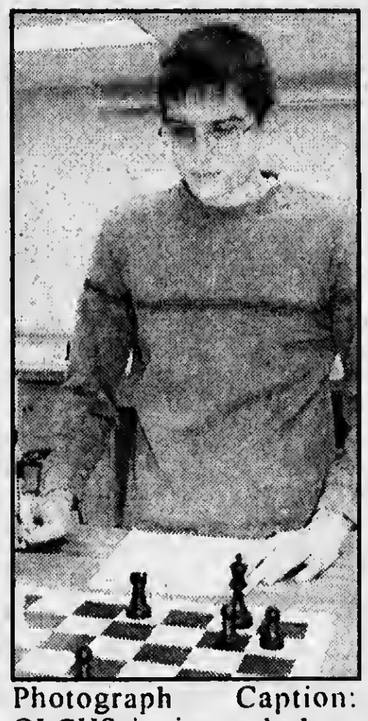
WHO: Dave Mason, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee and legendary musician

WHAT: A FREE 30-minute concert in an exciting promotion for his first solo album in over 20 years, *26 Letters and 12 Notes*.

WHERE: Best Buy
1432 Butterfield Road
Downers Grove , IL 60515

WHEN: Tuesday, January 27, at approximately 6 p.m.

For more information visit: www.dave-mason.com and www.otbrecords.com



Photograph Caption: OLCHS junior and chess team member Dariusz Hareza reviews the board before he makes his next move. The team is currently in a three-way battle for the Conference Championship.

OLCHS Chess Team Hopes for Conference Championship

This year's Chess Team, led by Mr. John Faro, consists of 20 students from different class levels. The mission of the chess team is to give students an outlet where they can meet new people while learning to play chess. The members play chess for fun and compete against each other and other schools.

Highlights from this current year are many. The team membership has never been higher, and the attendance of the members is also the best it has been in recent years. In competition with other SSC schools, the team's record is five wins with only two losses. The team competed in a tournament with Argo, Reavis, Oak Forest, Lemont, and Evergreen Park, taking home 1st place medals. The team swept their opponents in three different matches, winning all eight matches played. Individually, the players rank among the top of wins/losses and point total in the conference.

Ben Nelson is currently undefeated on the most difficult board and is leading all players in points from the entire conference. Kirk LaBuda, Dariusz Hareza, Kyle Bowen and Thayer Morad are currently in 3rd place on their respective boards. Eric Templin is tied for 4th place, while Paul Depre, Steve West and Dan Hernandez are in the top ten on their boards. All players that compete against other schools show great patience and skill. The team is currently in a three-way battle for the Conference Championship against Richards, the perennial winner, and Argo, a team who is always competitive.

Shedd Shares the Love in February With a Week of Free General Admission

Community Discount/Free Week Returns Feb. 16-20 at Shedd Aquarium

WHAT: In true Valentine's Day spirit, Shedd shows some love for economy-strapped pockets in February with Community Discount/Free Week, sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund. From Feb. 16–20, aquarium guests receive FREE general admission to the original galleries and discounts on already-reduced admission passes, including entry to the award-winning *Wild Reef*.

In addition to a week of free general admission, Community Discount/Free Days are every Monday and Tuesday throughout the whole month. Fall in love all over again with the aquarium's wonders, from the quirky green sea turtle Nickel in the Caribbean Reef to the mysterious sharks of *Wild Reef*. Bring your sweetheart to Shedd and cozy up in Phelps Auditorium to check out man's best friends in the Dog Show, highlighting animal training the "Shedd Way." Shedd experts demonstrate how marine mammal training techniques can work with domestic pets at home.

WHEN: Community Discount Days, sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund
Monday, Feb. 16 – Friday, Feb. 20 and
Every Monday and Tuesday in February
PRICES: Original galleries only: FREE
Total Experience Pass: $9.95 for adults; $7.95 for seniors (ages 65 & up) and children (ages 3-11)
Mini Pass: $7.95 for adults; $5.95 for seniors and children
Regular and reduced admission may be purchased through Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com or by calling (312) 559-0200. Advanced tickets are recommended.
WHERE: John G. Shedd Aquarium, 1200 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago
Shedd is open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. on weekends.
www.sheddaquarium.org

Whiff of Truffle Wipes Economic Blues Away

It will at least for one lucky foodie! And, their friends. Because we are giving away 1/4 lb. of Black Winter Italian Truffles.

Fresh Italian Truffle Contest Info:
To Enter: Leave a comment on our blog at www.marxfood.com
Dates: Enter by 12PM PST on January 26th
Prize: 1/4 lb. of fresh Black Italian Winter Truffles
For questions and further info, contact Justin Marx at justin@marxfoods.com or 866 588-6279.

MetroSouth Congratulates President Obama!

At MetroSouth Medical Center, we believe that quality care goes beyond performing procedures—it's about improving the lives of our patients and offering comfort to their families. At MetroSouth, our name is new, but our commitment to our community and to providing compassionate care remains as strong as ever.

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Far South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 2

January 20, 2009

McLaughlin and Team announce re-election plans

Orland Park Village Mayor, Dan McLaughlin announced his intention to seek re-election and also presented the "Orland Park First" team of candidates who will be running with him.

"I'm very grateful for the expression of trust and support the residents of Orland Park have extended to me in the past and I look forward to having the opportunity to continue serving them and our village for another four years," McLaughlin said.

"Washington D.C. and Springfield are often distant and detached from those they serve," McLaughlin continued, but local government, being closest to people, has a special responsibility to focus on 'quality of life' issues – issues that matter most to people and their families'"Property tax refunds for homeowners the last 6 years, open land set-asides, extensive park and recreation programs, on-going infrastructure and road improvements at no additional cost to taxpayers and most important, development that is planned, purposeful and targeted in order to enhance, not detract from property values."

"These things didn't just happen," McLaughlin continued. "It took the dedication and hard work of a team of individuals committed to making Orland Park a better place for all of us. I'm very proud of that team and proud that each has decided to again join with me in a continued effort to improve our village."

Those running on the Orland Park First Party slate with McLaughlin are Dave Maher, Village Clerk and Village Trustee candidates Brad O'Halloran, Kathy Fenton and James Dodge.

Dave Maher has been Clerk of Orland Park for 13 years and has been at the forefront in delivering a variety of day-to-day services to village residents. "I am proud to be part of a team that has accomplished so much for their community," Maher said. "Pick an issue that matters most – property tax relief, parks and the environment, transportation improvements, whatever – we have a record that demonstrates a real commitment to fiscal responsibility, accountability and getting things done that you would be hard-pressed to match in any other community in the suburbs."

Brad O'Halloran and Kathy Fenton have been Village Trustees for 16 years and James Dodge for 13 years.

"When an issue comes before the Board or a real need arises, Brad, Kathy and Jim have always applied the same critical standard of measure – 'how will this impact the quality of life in Orland Park?',stated Mayor McLaughlin

The Village election will be held April 7, 2009. Early voting begins March 16 and ends April 2.

Those not registered to vote who wish to do so, may register Monday through Friday, 9AM to 4 PM and Saturday's 9AM to 12 Noon, at the Orland Park Village Clerk's Office.

Oak Forest approves backup generators

The city council at the Oak Forest City Council meeting approved a Public Works request to purchase backup generators for portable water systems from Kohler Company of Kohler, WI for $77,266, plus freight. An ordinance for the sale of surplus property by the fire department was also approved.

Other highlights: The city council held a public hearing pertaining to an ordinance for an exchange of privately owned property at 15401 S. Cicero Avenue and the city-owned property at 155th Street and Waverly Avenue. Following the hearing, the city council approved an ordinance for the exchange of the properties as well as an ordinance for a reduction of front yard setback for the construction of an eave on the front porch at 5565 Ann Marie Lane. A resolution regarding the Southwest Convention and Visitors Bureau was also approved and the month of January was proclaimed South Suburban Pads Awareness month.

Are you running for Election?
Let everyone know what you are planing on doing to help improve the community.
Call Linda 312-624-8996

Dan Bowden meets with a client at his Help-U-Sell Select Realty office on Oak Park Avenue in Tinley Park.

Home sales bring help to area's needy

Dan Bowden has a front row seat as the housing crisis drama plays out.

A broker and owner of Help-U-Sell Select Realty in Tinley Park, he's watched home values drop dramatically in the region. He has met sellers unable to find buyers, and buyers unable to get mortgages. And he can tell you heartbreaking stories about area homeowners in distress: foreclosure, job loss, divorce, loss of home equity.

It's the sellers in distress that led him to make an unusual charitable New Year's Resolution. He'll donate $100 to Together We Cope for every house he closes on in Tinley Park in 2009. TWC is a homeless prevention agency based in Tinley Park that serves families in crisis from 22 south suburban comunities.

"We've seen a lot of distress in the past year, and it made me think about the need in this region," Bowden said. "We've met people who cry as they have to part with their homes because of unemployment or divorce. We see the financial harm to people who must drastically drop the selling price of homes they've cared for so well. And a major reason they have to drop that price is the stiff competition from bank-owned properties, houses that tell more tragic stories about family homes lost to foreclosure."

A Tinley Park native, Bowden bought his business two years ago and has worked in real estate for 10 years. Help-U-Sell features low commission rates, and Bowden is a buyer specialist who works with foreclosed properties. Despite continuing bad news in the housing sector, Bowden is somewhat optimistic about home sales in the new year. "I sold more homes last year than in 2007 and I project this year will be pretty close to last year. Right now, home values have dropped so much and three out of four buyers are first-time homebuyers getting very good deals for their money."

Bowden said "we lost 20 percent of home value in this market," but believes Midwestern home values have not been hit as hard as in other regions of the country. "This is a more stable area," he said, "but credit is still tight and a lot of buyers still can't get mortgages." He predicts it will be 2010 before the housing market stabilizes.

Kathryn Straniero, executive director of Together We Cope, said the agency is delighted to receive such a creative and generous donation from a business in the community. "Our budget is very strained right now, with growing need in this region as the economy continues to weaken. We greatly appreciate Dan Bowden's offer and certainly hope he sells a lot of homes in 2009!"

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 2 January 20, 2009

Pre-Filing Notice for Chicago Ridge

Notice is hereby given that the office of the Village Clerk of the Village of Chicago Ridge, 10455 South Ridgeland Ave., Chicago Ridge, Cook County, Illinois will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. beginning Monday, January 19, 2009 through Monday, January 26, 2009 for the purpose of accepting candidate petitions or certificates for the Consolidated Election to be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 for the following offices.

Village of Chicago Ridge

Village President	full 4-year term
Village Clerk	full 4-year term
Village Trustee	full 4-year term
Village Trustee	full 4-year term
Village Trustee	full 4-year term

Chicago Ridge Public Library

Library Trustee	full 6-year term
Library Trustee	full 6-year term
Library Trustee	unexpired 2-year term

Note: Objections must be filled by Monday, February 2, 2009, by 5:30 p.m.

For more information call the Village of Chicago Ridge, 10455 South Ridgeland Ave, Chicago Ridge, IL. 708- 425-7700.

Librarian Steve Zumbo

Librarian Steve retires

by Annette Dixon and Chicago Ridge Library

The Chicago Ridge Public Library, 10400 S. Oxford, is honoring Librarian Steve Zumbo's retirement on Sunday, January 25th with an Open House from 2 -4 p.m.

If you are someone in the past who consulted with a librarian instead of using the internet to get information pertaining to your subject, then you may have encountered Steve. Personally, I have used him as a reference source for putting together a Millennium paper about Chicago Ridge's past 100 years. He was not only knowledgeable, but very helpful in directing me to other people and resources. Sorry I will be unable to attend such a honorable event, but I want to thank Steve Zumbo publicly for serving as a librarian all these years in Chicago Ridge.

Please join the library staff and acknowledge Steve's 28 years of service to the community as he retires from the library.

Guest speakers will start at 3:00 p.m. If you would like to be added to the speakers' list, please call Kathryn in Adult Services at 423-7753.

Chicago Ridge to discuss agreement with Oak Lawn

The village board discussed amending an agreement between Chicago Ridge and Oak Lawn at the Jan 6 Chicago Ridge Board of Trustees meeting. The two municipalities have an agreement which places jurisdiction of the intersection of 95th and Ridgeland Avenue to the Chicago Ridge police department due to the majority of the intersection being in the village.

"The village has always been fine with this agreement," Police Chief Tim Baldermann said. However Oak Lawn has now installed red light cameras at the intersection and receives revenue from red light violations, which may have taken place in Chicago Ridge. "Now that Oak Lawn is profiting from the cameras, Chicago Ridge should not handling the entire intersection," Baldermann said.

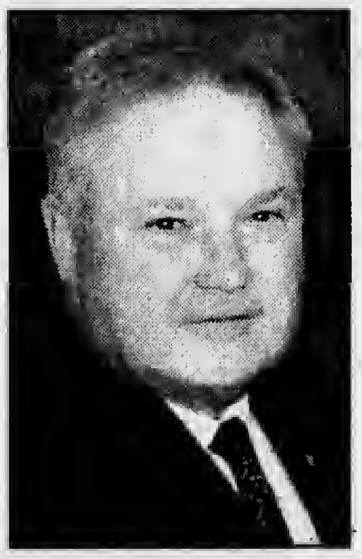
Village officials said the agreement was always out of courtesy and now that this is a revenue source and Chicago Ridge is doing the work. Officials feel that the village should receive a portion of the profits. Chicago Ridge will continue policing the intersection. However the board directed Village Clerk Chuck Tokar to send a letter to the Oak Lawn Village Manager Larry Deetjen so this matter could be discussed.

Palos Hill Extended Care Choir

It takes a certain person to build a choir

Give back by sharing their musical talents! In the first year of establishing a choir made up entirely of facility residents, the Palos Hills Extended Care Choir demonstrated a great deal of talent and performed with great success.

The members of the choir practiced twice a day to put on a wonderful performance for our facility Christmas celebration. The staff, residents and their families were entertained by this musically talented group of 16 members. The choir was dressed in holiday attire with matching shirts and hats to show their holiday spirit. Some of the songs performed by the extraordinary choir included Jingle Bell Rock, 12 Days of Christmas, and We Wish You A Merry Christmas.



Trustee looking for re-election

City of Palos Heights Mayor Bob Straz announced his intention to seek re-election in April 2009. "I'm very grateful for the trust and support the people of Palos Heights have given to me over the past eight years and I look forward to having the opportunity to earn their continued confidence,"

Straz said. "I am proud to be part of a team that has accomplished so much for our city," Straz added.

Bob Straz has served as Mayor of Palos Heights since 2001. Under his leadership, the city's general operating fund has gone from $200,000 in 2001 to $2.6 million at the end of 2008, an appropriate level as advised by the Illinois office of the Comptroller.

During this time, an additional $1million has been set aside for future capital projects. Increased fiscal responsibility has also helped Palos Heights receive more than $2.1 million in state and federal grants in just the past six years.

The largest grant from IDOT – nearly $1.5 million – was recently used for the reconstruction of 76th Avenue from Route 83 to 127th Street.

The City election will take place on Tuesday, April 7th with early voting available between March 16th and April 2nd.

Those who need to register to vote may do so at City Hall, 7607 W. College Drive, during regular business hours.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

B-MAC EDITION

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 2

January 20, 2009

Meet the Lincolns

A Series of Lincoln Bicentennial EventA Events co-sponsored by Blue Island's Library and Historical Society "Meet the Lincolns" Jan. 21st, 10:30 am & 6:30 pm at The Library.

Congratulate the winners! The Blue Island Chamber of Commerce and Industry presented its awards for Man, Woman and Business of the Year . Business of the Year went to A&R Security, Woman of the Year Cathe Adamski (Flowers By Cathe), and Man of the Year Don Peloquin (Mayor of Blue Island)

The Mayor, along with MetroSouth CEO Arnie Kimmel received the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship Award from the Blue Island/Crestwood Rotary. $1,000 was donated in each of their names to further the mission of Rotary. Colors were presented by the ROTC of DD Eisenhower High School under the direction of Master Sergeant James Kirkland the cadets were:
Chavez, Alexandria
Fernandez, Guadalupe
Pasierb, Alexander
Walters, Mike
Heuser, Brian
Palmer, Sharris

Buy Chamber Raffle Tickets! Win $100 cash, $25 & $50 gift certificates, t-shirts, a Blue Island $5 Shopping Spree and much much more! Drawing every month through 2009. Winning tickets are returned to the drum to win again. See all the sponsors BlueIslandChamber.com/ Raffle

(From L to R) Mark Piper, Stoughton, WI; Jeff Otway, Frankfort; Brittne Martin, Chicago; Lindsey Herzog, Eder Prairie, MN; CBS News Chief Washington Correspondent Bob Schieffer; Eric Gomez, Oak Forest; and Erin Slifka, Oak Lawn at the Washington Center in Washington, D.C.

Nine students from St. Xavier University will see history in the making

Nine Saint Xavier University students glimpsed American politics in action this week, including the appointment of U.S. Sen. Roland Burris (D-IL) and the U.S. Senate vote on the $350 billion stimulus package. The students are attending seminars at the Washington Center in Washington , D.C. before seeing the historic inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama.

The students have seen several high-profile figures in America 's political sphere, including White House Press Secretary Dana Perino, C-SPAN Founder and CEO Brian Lamb, Pakistan Ambassador to the United States Husain Haqqani, National Public Radio/ British Broadcasting Corporation Senior News Analyst Ted Koppel and Chicago Tribune Senior Editorial Board Member/Columnist Clarence Page.

The students spent the next day in the U.S. Senate and witnessed several historic events. They first saw Vice President Dick Cheney swear in Roland Burris, recently impeached Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich's controversial choice to fill Obama's vacant Senate seat.

Student Jeff Otway said seeing Burris sworn-in was a "once-in-a-lifetime" experience.

"How many times do constituents get the opportunity to see their senator sworn in?" he said.

After, they watched the vote on the Troubled Assets Relief Program, more commonly known as the $350 billion economic stimulus package.

Student Lindsey Herzog said seeing the Senators in action helped her think of them as people instead of distant figures on television.

"It allowed me to see their personalities," she said. "It was also exciting to know I was witnessing a vote on an important bill that will hopefully help resolve our economic problems."

Midlothian Public Library hosts big read event

The Midlothian Public Library, along with several other local libraries, is participating in the Big Read program this winter.

The Big Read is an opportunity for several communities to get together to share a common book theme for an extended study.

Midlothian Public Library participants will join patrons from Oak Forest , Matteson, Markham , Glenwood-Lynwood and Oak Forest High School libraries in studying the "Joy Luck Club" by Amy Tan. To kick off the Big Read,

Midlothian Library will host the Chicago Chinese American Cultural Bridge at Raday Lodge on Thursday, January 29th, at 7:00 p.m. The introduction to Chinese culture through music and dance will include the "Dragon Dance". Members of the audience will be given the opportunity to dress up in costumes provided by the troop as anything from a cobbler to the Emperor. The Big Read is truly a family event.

There will be multiple opportunities for book discussion, movie presentation and discussion, as well as teen and children's activities.

Other activities will include crafts, calligraphy, feng shui, and Asian cooking. With the exception of the Oak Forest High School programs, all events will be open to all members of the library communities involved but space may be limited. Copies of the book are available at the library. The closing program will be a lunch and tour of Chinatown in April. For further information, call the Midlothian Public Library at (708) 535-2027.

Alsip approves fire protection resolution

The village board at the Jan. 5 Alsip Board of Trustees meeting approved a resolution authorizing the execution of a fire protection services agreement between the village and Arrow Ridge Estates and Arrow Mobile Park.

An ordinance amending the number of authorized liquor licenses was approved as well as an ordinance amending the compensation and rate of pay for certain employees an appointed officers of the village.

Other highlights: The board approved an ordinance approving the subdivision of property located at 3750 W. 131st Street as well as an ordinance regarding the renewal of a lease agreement for 12204 S. 45th Avenue, which includes a 12-percent rent increase.

A request from the water department to purchase a replacement copy machine at a cost not to exceed $7,000.00 from Proven Business Systems. The board also approved a proclamation for "Public Action to Deliver Shelter for 19 Seasons" and proclaimed the month of January as South Suburban PADS Awareness month.

The village also asks that the residents to support the organization's effort to serve the community to end homelessness.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

Your Suburban Newspaper for 35 years

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 35 Number 14 February 3, 2009

Evergreen Park Community High School straight a students honored

Recently Evergreen Park Community High School honored 67 students for their excellent academic achievement in Term 1 at the semi-annual "Straight A Luncheon." The featured speaker was 1973 graduate and Evergreen Park Police Department Chief Michael Saunders. Students honored include: Michelle Augustinas, Sara Augustinas, Samantha Belanger, Essence Bonner, Frank Boyle, Vincent Cericola, Alexandria Chapa, Erin Christianson, Casey Christopher, Leslie Christopher, Thomas Cronin, Richard Daker, Matthew Deal, Daniel Dilley, Aaron Ditter, Julieanna Eiber, David Fontaine, Miranda Gonzalez, John Gorman, Ashley Grabowski, Kelly Guinn, Joseph Gustin, David Hector, Sean Jackson, Fe Juachon, Zachary Kahn, Farzaan Kassam, Mark Kiley, Anne Koronkiewicz, Wendell Lamar, Nicholas Lurquin, Jaclyn Manzi, Khrystyna Medvid, Eileen Morlan, Oliver Murphy, Patricia Murphy, Bailey Nolan, Amanda O'Connell, Heather O'Keefe, Krystyna Orlowksi, Jillian Pastick, Jolyne Piet, Maryl Pinotti, Emma Point, Fiona Potempa, Dkaila Price, Michelle Putlak, Natalie Ross, Sarah Ryan, Alan Saiz, Cynthia Schmitt, Jessica Schmitt, Lauren Schulte, Nicholas Shine, Neil Steen, Margrette Suchoski, Danisha Sullivan, Katelin Sullivan, Kerry Symanski, Kyle Symanski, Brooke Telander, Elise Trojanowksi, Anthony Welch, James Werner, Briana White, Amanda Williamson, Melissa Wrobel.

Office of Citizens' Services will have Volunteer Tax Counselors

OCS volunteer income tax counselors are certified by IRS through AARP training program. As tax preparation season begins the OCS tax volunteers are ready to assist you with tax returns, circuit breakers and property tax freeze forms. E-filing is available and encouraged. This service is available to seniors, low income and disabled adults and EP residents as time allows.

The free service is available by appointment, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9:30am - 3:00pm. To arrange for a time slot, call 422.8776. Due to the volume of returns processed, one hour per client is allotted, therefore, no business or lengthy returns are accepted. Walk-ins will be considered, as time allows.

The Bridgeview Public Library announces events

FOR KIDS: On February 7th children will learn about teeth care, watch a movie, and make a craft relating to teeth. February is Dental Health Month.

Please call to register. This class is open to children up to 8 years old.

On February 12th we will be celebrating the Anniversary of the 200th Birthday of Abraham Lincoln. Our party will include his accomplishments of being president of the United States , select readings from the Gettysburg Address, stories, make a craft and what's a party without cake? This party is on February 12th starting at 7:00 pm we ask that you call to register.

On February 14th Valentine's Day, kids can express their love by making a lovely craft. This event is for children up to age 8. Please call to register.

ADULTS: Bring your love to the library on February 14th at 3:00 pm to enjoy an afternoon of BIG BAND MEMORIES by STEVE COOPER.

EVERYONE: enjoy an evening performance of "HONEST ABE: a character you can count on." This musical melodrama in which Abraham Lincoln overcomes adversities and obstacles, develops tried and true character traits and in the end leads the Union to victory preserving the United States for future generations.

For information regarding the above please call (708) 458-2880

Hickory Hills Park District announces programs

Saturday Soccer

The Hickory Hills Park District will be offering a Saturday soccer league for 2nd – 4th graders. Game times will be 1:30 or 2:30 , February 14- April 11. All players will receive a t-shirt and trophy. Fee: Resident: $28; Non-Resident: $33.

All Night Ski Trip

Looking for some winter fun? The Hickory Hills Park District will be going to a great resort in Dubuque, Iowa for an all night ski on February 20 - 21. Bus departs from Krueger Park Rec. Center at 7:30 p.m (Friday) and returns approximately 8:00 a.m. (Saturday). Participants must be 13 - 17 years old. Fee: $79: Lift pass only; $95: Lift, lesson & rental.

Children's Programs

The Hickory Hills Park District offers a variety of programs for young children. Morning Adventurers, Jr. Speed Racers, Sports of all Sorts, "Art" Ragious Fun, Energy Express, Shin Kickers, Korner Kickers and Friday Frolics are sure to appeal to a variety of interests. All classes must meet minimum enrollment, so be sure to register early. Call the park district office at 598-1233 or visit our website at www.hhparkdistrict.org

Oak Lawn Library Programs

Kids "Read to Rover"

Children ages seven and up who would like to gain some experience reading aloud are invited to participate in the innovative "Read to Rover" program offered at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St . On Saturday, February 14, registered therapy dogs from the Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy of Chicago will be on-hand to serve as attentive, nonjudgmental, one-on-one listeners for young readers who sign up for a 15-minute time slot between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Advance registration is required at the Youth Services Desk. Special needs children are also encouraged to participate.

For more information, call 708-422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

Opera Lecture: Cavalleria Rusticana and Pagliacci

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will host a free lecture on two operas "Cavalleria Rusticana" and "Pagliacci" 1:30 p.m. Sunday, February 15. At this informative session, a member of the Lyric Opera Lecture Corps will explain their plots, give background on the composers and play musical selections.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Lawn Library.

View the complete 2008-2009 opera lecture series at www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

Doody's Doodlings

by Marijo Doody

So! Where were you on Inauguration Day 2009? The historic day will be remembered by many who were in Washington DC and by many Americans who watched glued to a TV at home or elsewhere.

I was just going to leave the Evergreen Park Library, when I was invited to share with the employees at the big screen TV. Low and behold Vice President Joseph Biden was just about to be sworn in by Supreme Court Justice Stevens.

Judge Stevens and his wife were bridge players that partook in the duplicate bridge group that I was a part of in the 1960's, in South Shore. At that time they lived in Hyde Park. They were formable opponents.

Judge Stevens received a presidential appointment to the Supreme Court and they relocated to Washington DC. Several players in the current bridge group also remembered them.

In the current duplicate bridge group one lady proudly showed her Inaugural Invitation to the bridge group. She was a neighbor of The Obama's in Kenwood and is 93 years young. She was not able to attend.

Memories flooded back to when I had met Mr. Obama in 2004 at the 19th Ward Democratic fundraiser held at the Lexington House. I had been there as a media person for Village View Publications. The evening presented one of Illinois storms and no power was available, so most of the evening was by candlelight until a generator worked.

I fondly remembered having a lengthy discussion with Mr. Obama, as he had endorsed a friend who ran on the Democratic ticket in Du Page County 6th Congressional District against Henry Hyde (GOP); my friend lost by a slim margin.

Mr. Obama was as charismatic then as he is now and one could not wonder that he would rise in the political sphere. Who knew then that he would be the 44th President of The United States of America?

At a Musichorale rehearsal Inauguration Night, one of the songs we sang had the most poignant words, which director Jeffrey Silhan noted how appropriate for Inauguration Day. The works by W. Gordon Richards and Robert W. Gibb read as follows:

America, Forever Free! Our fathers came from other lands to find a richer life. They sought a wider, newer clime with naught but nature's strife. Great God, who gave our fathers strength to found a land so free, give us the strength that land to keep, for our posterity. We stand today both strong and free, a refuge for oppressed: Our homes are built from shore to shore, yet still we may not rest. Our fathers drew from Thee their strength to wrest homes from the sod. Give us the strength that land to keep for ever free O God. A peaceful land they built for us where only stately forest grew. In wilderness they built their homes, their daily needs from nature drew; let us take from them a lesson from the brave and simple life they knew. The years flew past, through peace and war. More wildernesses was bravely tamed, as westward our fathers went. So yet more states were named. The nation grew, and still there came oppressed from other distant shores. Who sought to share our heritage and found our open doors. We stand today both strong and free, a refuge for oppressed; Give us the strength that land to keep forever free O God! (copyright MCMXLI by The BF Wood Music Co.)

As I write this column for our readers of Village View Publications and myself, we salute you President Barack Obama for becoming our 44th President of the United States of America.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you to help you sustain the vitality and endurance that you now possess and to help you overcome the struggles that we are faced within this country and world.

Moraine Valley celebrates Black History Month

From discussions surrounding Barack Obama's historic presidency to a soulful performance of freedom songs and Steppin' lessons, Moraine Valley Community College is hosting several February events in celebration of Black History Month.

The first event is a free panel discussion, "The Meaning of an Obama Presidency: Politics, Race, Class, and Power" on Wednesday, February 4, from noon to 1:30 p.m., in the Library, on the second floor of Building L, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills.

A diverse panel of faculty members from the college will discuss race, politics, religion, and other issues in relationship to the historical context of the nation's first African-American president. The Princely Players will perform their unique program of spirituals, work songs, hymns, and songs of hope and the quest for freedom on Thursday, February 12, at 7:30 p.m., in the Dorothy Menker Theater, in the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

The eight-member ensemble employs superb voices and exceptional stage presence to depict the centuries old struggle for freedom by African-Americans. Tickets can be purchased online at morainevalley.edu/fpac, or by calling (708) 974-5500.

Learn the specialized dance moves called Steppin' by taking free lessons from STEPS on Wednesday, February 18, noon to 2 p.m., in Café Moraine, Building C. Singer-songwriter Chris Vallillo will present Abraham Lincoln in Song, on Wednesday, February 25, at 7:30 p.m., in the Dorothy Menker Theater.

The one-man show features carefully researched and historically accurate period music directly associated with Lincoln, including songs he knew and loved, and stories Lincoln himself told.

Special emphasis is placed on showing Lincoln 's unique bond with the common man and his desire for reconciliation, not revenge. Tickets are $5.

Black History Month events at Moraine Valley are sponsored by the Celebrating Diversity Task Group. All events are open to the public.

Tax Busters Tax Tip

Free Money for First Time Home Buyers Take it!

Fresh from Ben Bernanke's printing press: a $7,500 interest free loan (under current legislation) to be paid back in $500 increments over 15 years beginning one year after the due date of your 2008 tax return. To be eligible for the loan, otherwise called the "First-time Home Buyer's Credit," you (or spouse) can't have been a home owner for the prior three years and must have purchased a home after April 8, 2008 or before July 1, 2009. The credit is limited to 10% of the home's purchase price. It is a refundable credit. That means you get the money even if you have no tax liability, and you get the money in addition to any other refund otherwise due, but subject to any amounts otherwise owed.

The greatest thing about this deal is that the loan does not show up on your credit report and is not included in your FICO score. So the very best thing to do with the money is to pay down existing debt. If you now qualify, you may have financed at 6.5% or higher. Paying down credit may allow you to refinance at 5% or less. Using credit proceeds to pay down a 30 year, $200,000 loan at 6% saves over ten months of payments and $12,000 in interest over the life of the loan. There is a proposal before the U.S. Congress to eliminate the loan provisions of this credit and make it an out and out Federal grant, but it's a great as is. Any questions or comments contact Gerald Knight, CPA, Realtor, Licensed Mortgage Originator (708) 529-3225.

OAK LAWN SENIOR HAPPENINGS

On Monday, Feb. 23 at 10 a.m. the Oak Lawn Senior Center will feature professional singer Kym Frankovelgia. Her unique voice, style and personality will delight all with her vast selection of songs. Refreshments are served at the conclusion of her program. The Center is located at 5330 W. 95th St .

Also on Monday, Feb. 23 at 11 a.m., representatives from Advocate Christ Medical Center will provide a presentation, "Heart Disease – Identifying Risk Factors and Risk Reduction." They will discuss lifestyle changes that should and shouldn't be made.

BOX LUNCH DAY

On the last Thursday of every month a box lunch is planned here at the Senior Center . The success of the day is all thanks to local businesses who offer to sponsor the program. By doing so they make this day affordable to Oak Lawn seniors. This month Southwest Center for Healthy Joints, located at 9618 S. Southwest Highway, will be the sponsor. This orthopedic facility provides trauma, physical, occupational, aquatic and message therapy. Thanks Southwest!

For further details on any of the activities you may call 708-499-0240 or stop by the Center for a calendar of events

Saint Xavier hosts orchestral tribute to Grateful Dead

Deadheads and classical music fans unite! Saint Xavier University will host a performance of Dead Symphony no. 6, an orchestral tribute to the music of iconic San Francisco rock band, The Grateful Dead. The performance will be at 7:30 on Tuesday, March 10, in the Ensemble Performance Space at SXU's Chicago Campus, 3700 W. 103rd St .

The performance will be just the second time this groundbreaking composition will have been performed in the United States . Lee Johnson, who wrote the piece, will personally conduct the performance with SXU's University Symphonic Orchestra. Marian Catholic High student, Pat O'Hara and several musicians from VanderCook College of Music will perform alongside SXU's musicians.

"We think this unique interpretation of the Grateful Dead's music performed by local musicians will give everyone something to enjoy," said SXU music professor Margaret Young-Weitzel, who organized the event. For additional information or tickets, please call (773) 298-3421 or (773) 298-3422 or visit www.sxu.edu/music/programs.asp or www.deadsymphony.com.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

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10:30pm - Hurricane Gumbo (Cajun Zydeco)

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8:30pm Daryl Coutts Band (Blues)
10:30pm Dikki Du & His Zydeco Krew (Zydeco)

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Greater Illinois Chapter urges caregivers to be ready for extreme winter weather

More than 500,000 Illinois residents are impacted by Alzheimer's disease.

Recent winter weather conditions draw attention to the need for disaster preparedness among people with Alzheimer's disease. Icy and snow covered streets can pose a dangerous threat to the elderly who may slip and fall which often times may lead to broken bones and other serious injuries. For people with dementia dangerous winter weather can pose an even greater risk.

"Any unfamiliar situation can significantly add to stress levels of not only people who suffer from Alzheimer's disease but also their family, friends and caregivers" said Tom Molony, Director of Communications for the Chapter. "Being prepared prior to a disaster is the best way to ensure your loved one's safety, security and well being when an emergency situation occurs. It is important to keep in mind that for people with moderate to severe Alzheimer's, stress and confusion can lead to risky and distressing behaviors, such as wandering off, agitation and surprising emotional outbursts. It is also important to do a wellness check on your loved one following a winter storm or natural disaster."

The Greater Illinois Chapter offers caregivers a wide variety of tips and suggestions to help them cope with these difficult behaviors. "These tips were developed by caregivers and experts who have lived through multiple emergencies," says Molony. Here are some of them:

If you know a disastrous situation is about to occur:

·Get yourself and the person with Alzheimer's to a safe place.

·Alert others (family, friends and medical team) you are relocating; give them contact information.

·Give the person's medical history, medications and physician information to someone other than the primary caregiver.

·Purchase extra medications.

Prepare an Alzheimer's-specific "emergency kit" that might include:

·Sturdy footwear with Velcro®

·Incontinence products

·Something familiar to hug (pillow, toy)

·Extra medications, eyeglasses

·A copy of the person's medical history, medications, insurance, Social Security card, power of attorney

·Contact information for physicians

·The Alzheimer's Association 24-hour Helpline number (800) 272-3900

·Favorite items or foods

·Recent photograph of the person

The Alzheimer's Association also offers the MedicAlert+Safe Return program which is a national database that has pertinent medical information about the lost person should they need medical attention. It will also help reunite lost loved ones with concerned family members. If you would like to register your loved one for MedicAlert+Safe Return call our 24/7 helpline at 800.272.3900 or visit www.alz.org/illinois.

Lack of information on leading cause of blindness could leave some Americans in the dark

Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) currently affects the vision of more than 2 million Americans, ages 50 and older. AMD is a progressive disease that diminishes central vision and if left untreated, can result in severe vision loss and even blindness.

But despite the severe damage AMD can cause to sight, the public is still relatively unfamiliar with chronic eye disease.

In fact, in 2008, AMD Alliance International conducted a survey that found more than half of all respondents had either never heard of AMD, or had heard of it but knew very little about it.[1]

Prevent Blindness America has declared February as Age-related Macular Degeneration Awareness Month in order to help educate the public on one of the leading causes of blindness in the world. The non-profit group offers a free educational online resource,

The good news is that the effects of the disease can be diminished through early detection and treatment by an eye care professional. That is why it is imperative for the public to know about the disease including early warning signs and risk factors.

Those with AMD may experience the following symptoms:

·Straight lines, such as a flag pole or streetlight, may appear wavy

·A dark or empty spot may block the center of vision

·Written words or type may appear blurry

According to the National Eye Institute, risk factors for AMD include:

·Smoking- Smoking and even second-hand smoke may increase the risk of AMD

·Obesity- Research studies suggest a link between obesity and the progression of early stage AMD to advanced AMD

·Race- Caucasians are much more likely to lose vision from AMD than African Americans.

·Gender- Of the more than 2 million Americans age 50 and older that have AMD, more than 1.3 million of those cases are women

·Family History- Those who have immediate family members with AMD are at a higher risk of developing the disease

For free information on AMD and other blinding eye diseases, please visit Prevent Blindness America at www.preventblindness.org or call 1-800-331-2020.

Learn about hidden calories

Be the lead investigator of your dietary and eating plan by learning how to "see" through the hidden calories in your favorite foods.

Losing those extra pounds will be more enjoyable when you can continue to eat tasty yet healthy foods by eliminating unnecessary calories.

Session led by a Palos Community Hospital/ Fitness Center registered dietician.

Please call the Orland Township office at 708-403-4222 to register for one, two, or all three sessions or for more information. Refreshments will be served.

Women's Healthy Heart Month in Orland Township

Take some time out of your busy schedule to join us for a celebration of Women's Healthy Heart month. On February 21, 2009 Orland Township along with Heart Centers of Illinois will host this program about changing lives and helping women take the necessary steps to live a more heart-healthy lifestyle for themselves and their families. Dr. Dominick Stella will be here speaking about how women's heart disease is the leading cause of death in women today.

Patty Basta, a nutritionist from Metro South will be here to talk about nutrition and a heart healthy diet. Heather Jelonek from Orland Township Youth and Family Services will speak about how stress affects our life today.

A small charge of $15.00 will be assessed and a heart healthy breakfast will be served. The program starts at 9:00 a.m. and will last until noon. It will take place at Orland Township Activity Center , 15100 S. 94th Ave. , Orland Park .

To register for this program please call (708) 403-4222, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

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Our Bridal and Valentine Page

DINING AT PHEASANT RUN RESORT on VALENTINE'S DAY

A special menu is being prepared for guests in the fine dining restaurant, Harvest. A prix fix at $99 per couple, the four-course menu includes specialty items ranging from Pan Seared Sea Scallops with Ponzu Glaze to Asiago Crusted Grouper or Rosemary Seared Bonfire Chicken and more. Complete the four-course meal with a Chocolate Passion Sampler with Fresh Fruit and you've achieved perfection. Guests are encouraged to take advantage of the suggested wine-pairings chosen to compliment their meal. Alcohol and gratuities are not included in the prix fix pricing.

Another dining option at the Resort is the newly opened, New Orleans-inspired restaurant, Jambalaya. Take a trip to the French Quarter without even leaving America 's Heartland. The exciting flavors and unique recipes from that region make each dining experience at Jambalaya an exciting one. The full menu, including a Valentine's Day special, will be available at Jambalaya throughout the Valentine's Day weekend.

Valentine's Day
Harvest Cupid Menu
February 14, 2009
(Menu items subject to change)

Appetizers
Choice of One
Pan Seared Fresh Sea Scallops with Ponzu Glaze
Spinach Stuffed Dim Sum & Fried SAI-FUN Noodles
Roasted Red Pepper and Maryland Crab Bisque
Sherry infused Crème
Tomato Basil Bruschetta
Fresh Midwestern Plum Tomatoes, Basil & Asiago Cheese, Extra Virgin Olive Oil
Served on Grilled Artisan Bread
Field Green Salad
Mixed Baby Greens with Roasted Bosc Pears,
Walnuts & Goat Cheese with a Raspberry Vinaigrette
Entrees
Choice of One
Grilled Filet & Stuffed Shrimp
Black Angus Filet Glazed, Red Wine Reduction & Baby Portobello Mushroom
Three Jumbo Crabmeat Stuffed Shrimp
Asiago Crusted Grouper
Grilled Artichokes, Portobello Mushrooms & Grilled Asparagus
Mascarpone Mashed Potatoes and Cabernet Red Butter Reduction
Rosemary Seared Bonfire Chicken
French Cut Chicken Breast Finished in a Rosemary Parmesan Poultry Reduction Nestled on a Tuft of Sautéed Spinach and Polenta
Dessert Tray for Two
Chocolate Passion Sampler with Fresh Fruit

Dine Restaurant

733 W. Madison
Chicago (Corner next to Crown Plaza Hotel)

Spend a music-filled Valentine's Day at Dine, featuring jazz guitarist Lee Barrie from 6:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. February 14. Barric's smooth jazz will serenade guests, while Dinc offers a special Valentine's Day menu Friday February 13, and Saturday February 14 in addition to its regular menu.

For starters, choose from Spice Rubbed Prime Tenderloin, Champagne vinaigrette, Brussels sprouts-horseradish salad ($11), or West Coast Evening Cove Oysters witha trio of caviars ($12). Enjoy Dine's special Valentine's Day soup, Oregon Pink Shrimp Bisque, with orange fennel relish and tempura shrimp ($7). Entrée selections include Grass Fed Strip Steak rubbed with Valrhona cocoa and New Mexico Chili Yukon potatoes ($28), or Pole Caught Virginia Striped Bass with grilled ramp, red Russian fingerling potato and a sweet pea emulsion ($27). Complement the dinner with featured wine pairings; either three wine selections for $9, or let Dine's wine steward select the perfect bottle.

For the finale, choose between Dine's signature heart-shaped Red Velvet Cake for Two with cream cheese frosting and pecan praline ($11), hand-dipped Chocolate Covered Strawberries for two ($9) or a sparkling glass of Champagne ($5).

Dine's Valentine's Day drink menu includes Bleeding Love, Stoli raspberry and vanilla topped with apple juice and chocolate covered raspberries, served in a chilled martini glass glazed with deep red raspberry flavored coloring ($12), Shoot the Cupid, a chilled shaken and stirred brew of Grey Goose L'Orange and Effen raspberry, finished with a bubbly mixture of sparkling grape juice and Champagne ($12) and Happily Ever After, a strong burning collage of Grey Goose pear and White Crème De Cacao, topped with a rich frothing of cream and coated with chocolate sprinkles ($12).

Restaurant Week Menu During Chicago Restaurant Week, February 20 through February 27, 5 p.m. until 11 p.m., Dinc offers a three course menu special at $32 per person. For the first course, try Not So Much of a Wedge, baby ice berg lettuce, green onions, grape tomato, peppered bacon and St. Petc bleu cheese dressing, or the Spice Rubbed Prime Tenderloin, golden beet vinaigrette and Brussels sprouts-horseradish salad. For the second course, choose from the garlic rubbed 16 oz. Bone in Ribeye , creamed spinach, jumbo asparagus and natural jus, or the slow dried Rummo Pasta, chili flakes, pan roasted grape tomatoes, shallot and baby arugula. Finally, choose between three desserts like the Ricotta Cheesecake, Bing cherry-Zinfandel gelato and sauce; the Seasonal Crème Brulee crisp sugar crust or the daily selection of Ice Cream or Sorbet.

Dine is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner seven days a week. Breakfast is served from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. Lunch and dinner are served from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The Martini Bar and Lounge is open until 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and until midnight Friday and Saturday. Dining is available at the bar. Valet parking is complimentary.

For more information or to make reservations, please contact Dinc at (312) 602-2100 or visit www.dinerestaurant.com.

Registration continues for Friends of the Oak Lawn Library Trip

St. Valentine's Day Massacre

Tickets are still available for a Friends of the Oak Lawn Library bus trip to Tommy Guns Garage for lunch and a performance of the St. Valentine's Day Massacre on Thursday, February 12.

Enjoy a delicious meal as the audience participates in a re-enactment of this in famous crime at this interactive dinner theater venue in downtown Chicago. The cost of the trip is $64 for Friends members and $69 for others. The bus will depart from the library at 11:30 a.m. and return at 4:30 p.m. Please be advised that this trip is not wheelchair accessible.

To find out how you can purchase tickets, call the library, 708-422-4990

All proceeds from ZAZZ Bash will benefit Park Lawn School

Park Lawn hosts the 20th annual Singles Bash, ZAZZ. Single? Looking for someone special or just someone? Then ZAZZ is the place to be! On Friday, February 20, 2009 at the Ashton Place in Willowbrook, join hundreds of singles from Chicago and surrounding communities for an exciting and one-of-a-kind event.

Take part in the live auction by bidding on date packages with bachelors and bachelorettes, bid on spectacular items on the silent auction such as overnight packages, sports memorabilia and gift baskets, join in on the raffles to win cash and great prizes, drink at the open bar, eat from the buffet and dance the night away!

ZAZZ will be hosted by Bonnie Greene, US 99 News and Traffic Reporter and Gene Honda, sports announcer for the Chicago White Sox, Blackhawks and WTTW.

Tickets are $37 in advance, $42 at the door. Tables of ten can be reserved for $320.00 or $32/person. For tickets and more information call 708-425-6867, email info@parklawn.com or visit www.parklawn.com.

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Oak Lawn Chapter of Aglow meets in February

The Oak Lawn Chapter of Aglow International will meet on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009 at Mama Luigi's Restaurant, 7500 S. Harlem, Reverend Michael Winters, a native of Florida, will be the speaker this month. He taught Physical Education until he was called to active duty in the US Army. He served in Korea for a year.

He graduated from seminary in 1976 and again in 1992 with an advance degree in ministry. He has served churches as pastor in Georgia, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Illinois; and is presently the Interim Pastor of Oak Lawn Community Church.

Pastor Winters had major responsibility with the Presbyterian Hunger Ministry at both the national and regional levels. He dreams of a day when all of God's children will be gathered at God's table of plenty, filled and satisfied and enjoying each other.

Pastor Mike is married to Anna Case-Winters who joined the faculty of McCormick Theological Seminary in 1986. Together they have three children; Jenny is a graduate student in Astronomy at Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA. Mike is a Junior at the College of Wooster, with a major in Physics and Music. Danny is a freshman at Oak Park River Forest High School in Oak Park.

Come & bring a friend to relax and hear, "Witnessing the good news of Jesus".

Dinner tickets are $13.00, available at 6:30PM at the door. Dinner is served promptly at 7:00PM. Reservations are required by February 10th.

For additional information and reservations please call June at (708) 424-1656.

Evergreen Park Library announces their programs

On Mondays, through February 23rd at 11:00 am, children ages 2-3 years with an adult are invited to the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy , to experiment with painting, gluing, sticking, and printing. Bring a smock and get ready for some messy fun! For information or to register: (708) 422-8522 or youthservices@evergreenparklibrary.org

All teens are encouraged to attend a Teen Advisory Group (TAG) meeting on Thursday, February 5th at 7:30 pm at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy . Teens will plan programs for the spring, materials to purchase, and more!

Spectacular Soups Culinary Demonstration & Tasting

Chef Kate Bradley will be at the Evergreen Park Library, 9400 South Troy , **on Thursday, February 5th at 6:30 pm** to demonstrate proper techniques that will make your soup spectacular along with easy recipes to help you create your soup du jour. Registration is required and limited with a $3.00 per person tasting fee.

Grossology 101

The Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy , invites grades 2-5 to study slimy, smelly, rotten and just plain gross things. The program will take place on Friday, February 6th at 3:30 p.m.

Sunday Quilters

Beginning and veteran quilters are invited to join instructor Penny Nichols as she shares her knowledge of quilt design and construction at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy . Participants do not need to bring a sewing machine to these sessions. Sunday Quilters will be held on Sunday, February 8th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Valentines in the Village Library!

The Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy , invites children grades 3-5 to celebrate Valentine's Day by making valentines and listening to stories on Monday, February 9th at 3:30 pm.

School's Out Movie Matinee

All ages are invited to the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy to enjoy their school holiday on Tuesday, February 10th, by watching "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" [G] on our big screen. Showtime begins at 1:30 pm and kids may bring their own snack.

Quick 'n Easy Home Decorating: with HGTV's Julea Joseph

The Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy , will host Julea Joseph for a fun and fast-paced workshop on quick and easy decorating with your existing belongings! The program will take place on Tuesday, February 10th at 6:30 pm.

Soap Making at the Evergreen Park Public Library!

Teens, grades 6-12 are invited to the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy, on Tuesday, February 10th at 4:00 pm to learn how to melt and pour soaps.

Teens in the Kitchen: Cupcakes and the Art of Piping

Chef Kate Bradley will be at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy , on Wednesday, February 11th at 6:00 pm to teach teens, grades 6-12, how to pipe icing in wonderful patterns onto cupcakes.

Honest Abe's 200th Birthday Bash

All ages are invited to the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy to join the party on Saturday, February 14th at 3:00 pm, where they'll eat cake, play games, and dress up like Abraham Lincoln to enter the look-alike contest!

Battlefield Balladeers

All ages are invited to the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy on Sunday, February 15th at 1:00 pm to listen to the Civil War era songs of the Battlefield Balladeers.

Gaming Afternoon

Teens, grades 6-12 are invited to play Guitar Hero Revolution on Monday, February 16th from 2:00 until 4:00 pm at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy.

School's Out Movie Matinee

All ages are invited to the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy to enjoy their school holiday on Monday, February 16th, by watching "Horton Hears a Who" [G] on our big screen. Showtime begins at 1:30 pm and kids may bring their own snack.

Homemade Indulgences: Spa Scrub Workshop

Sue Palka will be at the Evergreen Park Library, 9400 South Troy , on Wednesday, February 18th at 7:00 pm to teach you how to make a luxurious, moisturizing scrub made entirely of common kitchen ingredients! Registration is required and limited with a $3.00 per person materials fee.

Anime Party

Teens, grades 6-12 are invited to the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy, on Friday, February 20th at 6:00 pm to watch anime movies.

Wiggleworms

Children ages 6 months-5 years, with an adult are invited to join Karen Banks-Lubicz from the Old Town School of Folk Music as she lead us in songs, finger plays, and music activities! Wiggleworms will take place on Saturday, February 21st at 11:00 am at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy .

Lincoln, Slavery, and the Legacy of Race

Historian and Lincoln College professor, Ron Keller, will be at the Evergreen Park Library, 9400 South Troy , on Tuesday, February 24th at 7:00 pm to trace the imagery and documents that present Abraham Lincoln on both sides of the ongoing debate of whether he was a progressive emancipator or a reluctant anti-slavery man.

America in the age of Obama

A concert honoring Life Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness Wednesday February 11, 2009 7:30p.m. presented by the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University in partnership with THE CITY LIGHTS ORCHESTRA conducted by Evergreen Park resident Rich Daniel.

Tickets can be purchased by calling 312-902-1500 or Ticketmaster.com.

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Lincoln State Cat Club's 49th Annual Cat Show

Lincoln State Cat Club, Inc. will be holding it's 49th annual CFA Championship All Breed and Household Pet show at the Oak Lawn Community Pavilion, 9401 S. Oak Park Avenue , on February 21 and 22, 2009.

The event features a Showcase of Breeds with booths for many Cat Fanciers Association recognized purebred cats, their owners to answer questions, information on the various breeds and names of reputable breeders from whom you might purchase a kitten.

An Education Ring features speakers on cat health and wellness topics. Veterinarians, pet behavior counselors and more will speak both days every hour on the hour.

Over 35 vendors will be present to sell everything from statues and gold jewelry to cat beds and litter pans, all at a great price! Food will be available for the people as well as the cats.

The show itself features purebred cats competing for Best in Show against 225 other cats in 8 separate rings. In the Household Pet Show the cat next door gets to be a star, too.

Lincoln State Cat Club's 2007 show was voted by the CFA Awards Committee as "CFA Midwest Region Best Show of 2007", based on nominations of exhibitors. Cat breeders and fanciers come from all over the Nation to attend our show.

Hours for the show are 9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. both days. Admission is $8 with children under 6 years old admitted free. There is ample free parking. For more information and a discount coupon check the web-site at www.lscats.org .

Lincoln State Cat Club is a non-profit organization, and all proceeds from the show will be donated to feline health and welfare organizations. Past support includes The Anti-Cruelty Society of Chicago, Tree House Animal Foundation, Second Chance Shelter, The West Suburban Humane Society, The Morris Animal Foundation, The Robert Winn Feline Foundation, Cornell University Feline Health Center , The University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine and many, many more. The Club has purchased a number of animal oxygen masks that will be donated to the area fire departments to save our animal friends' lives in the event of a fire.

Our benefit raffle will be donated to a local neuter/spay organization.

Help make this year's show a success. There's a lot of work that needs to be done to help our cats achieve better health. Lincoln State Cat Club is committed to doing it.

Sister M. Sandra Zorko,SSFCR

Mount Assisi Academy 2009 Gala Dinner Dance and Hall of Fame Awards

Mount Assisi Academy's 2009 Gala Dinner Dance and Hall of Fame Awards, benefiting MAA's Guardian Angel Tuition Assistance Fund, is scheduled for Saturday February 21, 2009 at Palos Country Club, 13100 Street & Southwest Highway in Orland Park, Illinois.

The evening will kick-off with cocktails and silent auction opening at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m.

Presentation of the 2009 Mount Assisi Academy Hall of Fame Awards will take place during the dinner program, and a live auction featuring a weekend condo stay at Chicago 's landmark Hancock Building as well as a Chicago White Sox Scout ticket package will be offered immediately after dinner. A Grand Raffle including a week's stay in Cabo San Lucas will also be part of the festivities.

Mount Assisi Academy 's 2009 Hall of Fame Class inductees include:

Ellen Reilly, MAA Class of 1977 Woman of the Year Award

Sr. M. Sandra Zorko, SSFCR, MAA Class of '58 Lifetime Achievement Award

Mr. Ernest Cherullo Spirit of Mount Assisi Award

MAA Director of Guidance & Counseling

Mr. Robert and Mrs. Jill Carr Pro Deo et Patria Award

Founders of the Give Something Back Foundation Carol Reckwerdt MAA Service Award

Alexandra Steel Salley, MAA Class of 1997 Athlete of the Year Award

Tickets for Mount Assisi 's 2009 Gala Dinner Dance and Hall of Fame Awards are $100 per person, and Grand Raffle tickets are $20 each or three for $50.

To make MAA Gala reservations, purchase raffle tickets, or additional in-formation, please contact MAA Director of Development Donna Murphy-Buckley at 630-257-7844 ext. 23 or at development@mtassisiacademy.org

Love stories that last a lifetime sparkle at Smith Village

Residents share their tales of decades of marriage

The splashy hearts and flowers sent on Valentine's Day often bring to mind images of young love, high school crushes, wedding engagements, first dates and secret admirers.

At Smith Village, a continuing care retirement community in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood, the love stories carry a richer tone with love that spans many decades. Independent Living Residents Muriel and Vernon Wilson and Joanne and Roy Anderson have been married 61 and 53 years, respectively. Although both couples have weathered the ups and downs of life, they savor their good humor, friendship and respect.

Wilsons share the memories of 61 years of marriage

Not only does Muriel Wilson remember the first time she met her husband Vernon more than 60 years ago, she remembers the black satin dress she wore. She remembers, too, fretting because a friend told her Vernon didn't ask her out because he thought she was too skinny.The two attended different churches on Chicago's South Side but they were the same denomination. So she looked forward to seeing Vernon at citywide church events, even though he didn't ask for a date right away. Then, just before a church-sponsored skating event Muriel broke her hand. She decided to go skating anyway and that was the day he finally asked her out.

Muriel and Vernon courted for about a year, then married. They adopted two children—a boy and a girl. Vernon owned a meat market on Chicago's South Side for 10 years. He was happy with the job but Muriel didn't like his long hours, so he gave it up. He switched to a career in sales, working for a greeting card distributor while she stayed home with the kids. The two share religious beliefs and enjoyed many of the same activities like swimming, tennis, biking, skating and travel. Now married 61 years, Vernon and Muriel have come a long way since that church skating party. "We respected each other's territory," says Vernon offering a glimpse into their secret to a long and happy marriage. "We've had our quarrels but we always worked things out." For young people today looking for marriage advice he says, "Anybody can stay married, if they don't try to be the boss."

Story about Roy and Joanne Anderson

The Anderson's enjoy each other's humor and hobbies Shortly after returning from the war in Korea, Roy Anderson was admiring a friend's wedding album when he saw a picture of a very attractive young woman.

He was so impressed that he arranged to meet the pretty bridesmaid, Joanne, for a blind date. The first time he came to her door, he found himself face to face with the huge, intimidating family dog. But he stood his ground and is glad that he did.

"I liked that Roy was very outgoing because I was rather shy," says Joanne. "It also helped that he was really good looking. The only down side was that he was a 'Mama's Boy'—an only child." He even brought his mother along on the couple's second date to a pro-wrestling match. The couple laughs about it now.

"A good sense of humor helps get you through the rough spots," says Joanne.Roy worked for Crane Co., a company that made bathroom fixtures. Joanne took care of their two daughters.

Today, they also enjoy eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. ! SV Love Stories/add two Over the years they've supported each other in good times and in bad. They give each other space and time to enjoy their own hobbies. Roy likes collecting stamps, coins and antiques. Muriel enjoys needlework and baking.

"You have to accept your spouse the way she is. And, go with the flow," says Roy. "You may not always agree but you can work things out." Muriel adds, "Young people today give up too quickly."

About Smith Village Smith Village residents find their vibrant lifestyle well-suited to keeping active and engaged in the community. They enjoy options for flexible dining in a beautifully appointed Main Dining Room and a busy Marketplace Café.

In the same building, they have access to a spa/beauty salon and a fitness center with a full-time fitness specialist on staff. Additionally, on the same campus there are Assisted Living, Alzheimer's and Memory Support programs and residences, as well as Skilled Nursing Care services and accommodations.

Smith Village is one of the highly regarded Smith Senior Living communities in the southwestern region of metropolitan Chicago.

The not-for-profit organization established its first community in 1924 on the site of Smith Village's new campus.

For more information about how Smith Village can help seniors thrive during their retirement, please call 773-474-7300 or visit www.SmithVillage.org.

Lincoln State Cat Club
49th Annual CFA All Breed
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TECHNOLOGY AND THE KEEN-AGER

According to what I've been reading lately there is a growing segment of seniors who are disgruntled by their descent into the abyss of middle age.

In a way I think all of us keen-agers (who've passed from teen to keen) experience those manic mid life moments when it suddenly hits us that there are more days behind us than there are ahead of us. Though the years do seem to be gaining on us, most of us don't really feel all that 'old' at heart - until perhaps the reality of technology sets us straight.

Take for instance cell phones. With choices ranging from taking pictures, by phone, to text messaging, all I wanted was a simple phone to dial home or to locate Bill on his cell phone when we're separated in a store. I knew I was showing my age when I saw the commercial for the Jitterbug cell phone and it looked appealing to me - Big numbers and a basic call and get calls system. Though I do own an IPod I still can't comprehend how thousands of tunes can be downloaded into a gadget the size of a credit card, let alone know how to program the songs into it.

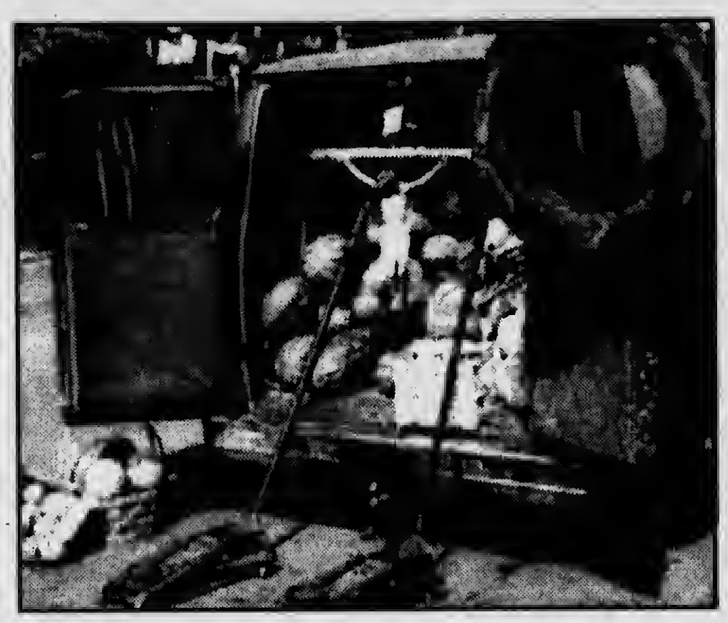
Lucky for me I have a patient nephew, Ryan, who has equipped my IPod with enough classic 60's and 70's music to keep me pounding the pavement for hours. Recently, at my daughter's suggestion, we purchased a Wii game. It consists of sports games you play on the t.v screen with a remote. We love the virtual bowling game. While playing a friendly family competition of bowling, a brother-in-law commented that our grand-kids won't believe that we actually use to go to a place called a bowling alley to lob a heavy, big round bowl down a lane. Imagine that they'll think bowling in front of the t.v, with a remote, is a unique idea. Then again, by the time they're able to listen to stories about the 'good 'old days' these days, right now, will be old.

Recently my friend, Dee, sent me a link to join Face Book. Since I still consider myself to be somewhat incompetent when it comes to doing anything but e-mailing on the computer my first reaction was to ignore the request. But, I clicked on and joined, not knowing what to expect. When in doubt call somebody who knows what they're doing, which is why I stopped over at my daughter Katie's house.

As I held grand daughter, Avery, I heard Katie clicking this and typing in that. And then I heard her say "oops." The 'oops' turned out to be Katie accidentally e-mailing her Face Book contacts, asking them to accept me as their friend. Oh no! That was a little embarrassing since my motivation for joining was to network with people my own age, maybe connect with fellow writers and maybe even a few grandmas, not harrass the young people!

The very next morning I had a message from Face Book. My kind niece invited me to be her friend on Face Book. Thanks Nicole! I think this may be fun once I get the hang of it. I suppose that when it comes to aging you're only as old as you feel. I really don't feel like I'm over the hill unless I'm dealing with the technology of the times - then I'm a keen-ager, showing my years but always eager to learn.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK~ Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter. (Mark Twain)



SXU Gallery hosts photographer Seonaid Valiant

"Pilsen: A Portrait" exhibit runs Feb. 11 – Mar. 11

Photographer, historian and cultural critic Seonaid Valiant will showcase her photos of Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood beginning Wednesday, Feb. 11 at Saint Xavier University 's SXU Gallery, 3700 W. 103rd St. , Chicago .

Valiant will give a lecture and discuss her exhibit "Pilsen: A Portrait," at an artist's reception at 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 11 at the SXU Gallery.

"Pilsen: A Portrait" is part of an ongoing series of documentary photographs detailing life in Chicago 's largely Hispanic Pilsen neighborhood. The series examines everyday life, religion, and ways residents work, play and express themselves.

"My primary focus is on portraits of the children in the community, many of whom are first- and second-generation immigrants," she said. "Rather than taking photographs from a distance or trying to capture my subjects in unselfconscious poses or unguarded moments, I wanted them to directly address the camera and challenge the viewer's gaze."

The SXU Gallery is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, please contact the SXU Gallery at (773) 298-3081.

Marist High School donates to cancer organizations

Marist High School's volleyball program recently presented checks totaling $13,539.83 to three organizations to help in the fight against cancer.

Little Company of Mary's Cancer Center received a check for $5,000. A check was also presented to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation for $3539.83, which included $875 from Benet Academy's team. Finally, Faye's Light, a non-for-profit group that provides personal care to cancer patients for free, was given also given $5,000.

The initiative, named RedHawk Pink Daze, included fundraising efforts by the young women in the program. They solicited monetary donations from friends and family, held a bake sale and offered raffle tickets for several prizes. The efforts culminated with a match against Benet Academy dedicated to breast cancer awareness.

Celebrating 45 years of excellence, Marist High School, 4200 W. 115th Street in Chicago, is a Catholic, college preparatory school educating young men and women in heart, mind, and body.

Pictured, left to right, is William Dougherty, Vice President of F.O.P. Chicago Lodge #7 and Officers Scott Leck, David Guzman and William Murphy

Fraternal Order of Police presented award

Officers David Guzman, William Murphy and Scott Leck. Officers Guzman, Murphy and Leck monitored a radio broadcast of a man drowning in the pond located at 3656 w. 103rd. Street. Upon arrival at the scene they learned the subject had been playing volleyball and when the ball went in the water he went in to retrieve it and went under the water.

The Officers observed the subject in distress in the middle of the pond and immediately took off their gun belts and entered the pond to assist him. At this time the subject was submerged beneath the water. The Officers continued to search the pond for him with negative results. Chicago Fire Department divers arrived on the scene but when the subject was recovered and transported to Christ Hospital he was pronounced dead upon arrival.

The Officers were all transported to Christ Hospital for exposure to the pond water. They were treated and released. Due to the dedication to duty by Police Officers David Guzman, William Murphy and Scott Leck they entered the pond without regard for their personal safety to save the life of this victim. Even though the victim did not survive the drowning, the actions and courage of these officers are a perfect example of "We Serve and Protect." VP Dougherty stated "It is with great appreciation that the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7 presents Officers David Guzman, William Murphy and Scott Leck with the Life Saving Award."

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New cast member for Don't Dress for Dinner

Cancel those dinner reservations!

Stage and screen actor Darren Pettie has joined the critically acclaimed cast of Don't Dress for Dinner, a hilarious comedy of errors written by Boeing-Boeing playwright Marc Camoletti and directed by renowned New York director John Tillinger.

Pettie joins the critically-acclaimed current cast including: Patricia Kalember, well-known for starring roles on the hit television shows Sisters and thirtysomething; New York-based stage and screen stars (and husband and wife), Mark Harelik and Spencer Kayden; actress Jamie Morgan from FX's Rescue Me with Dennis Leary; and Chicago talent Chris Sullivan.

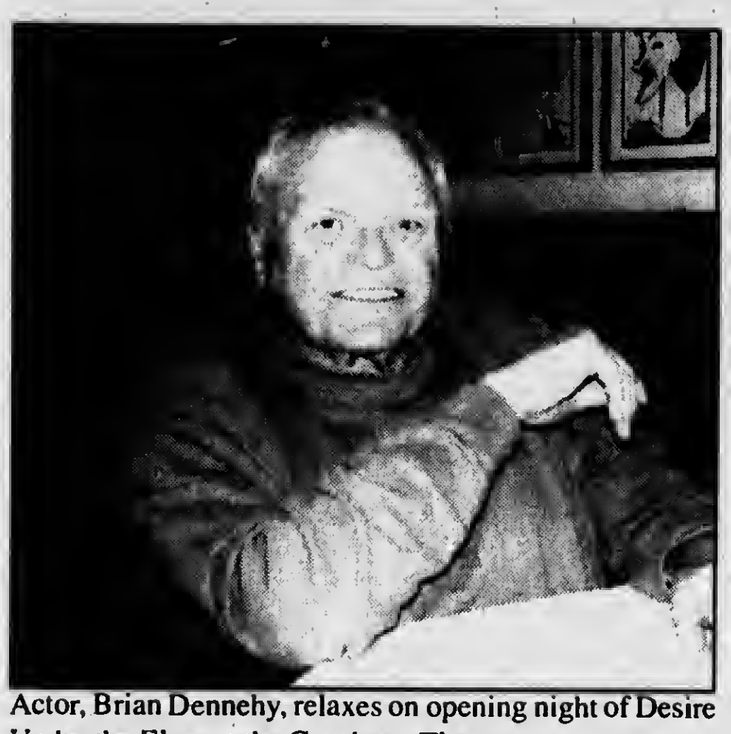
Darren Pettie is a graduate of The Juilliard School, with appearance on stage, film and television. He was most recently seen Off-Broadway in Hillary: A Modern Greek Tragedy with a (Somewhat) Happy Ending at New Georges Theatre at The Living Theatre.

His other stage credits include Broadway's Butley (Booth Theater) and Off-Broadway roles in Spatter Pattern (Playwrights Horizon), Dedication or The Stuff of Dreams (Primary Stages), Hobson's Choice (Atlantic Theater), and much more.

Don't Dress for Dinner is a frenetic case of mistaken identity with more twists than a corkscrew.

Tickets are available through March 1, 2009 and range in price from $49.50 and are now on sale via the Royal George Theatre Box Office, 1641 N. Halsted Street, by calling 312-988-9000, or online at Ticketmaster.com.

There is a $5 discount for students and seniors. Discounts are also available for groups of 10 or more.



Actor, Brian Dennehy, relaxes on opening night of Desire Under the Elms at the Goodman Theatre

The O'Neill classic Desire Under the Elms

by Annette Dixon

The ageless Brian Dennehy performed as usual in his professional manner, giving his awe to the dramatic part of (Ephraim Cabot). My understandng was that the two sons, (Peter Cabot) Boris McGiver and (Simeon Cabot), Daniel Stewart Sherman's accents sounded more southern than eastern, but with the extraordinary set, this play was unlike any other production of Desire Under the Elms.

The opening of the play was so dramatic, unlike any performance ever, the dramatization of carrying the rocks was overwhelming. The sets were magnificent and credit is due to Walt Spangler.

Director Robert Falls, collaborated with Brian Dennehy, who is considered to be one of the great O'Neill interpreters in the world.

Audiences agreed Carla Gugino, (Abbie Putnam) and Pablo Scheiber (Eben Cabot) performed with excellence.

Opening night was filled with Goodman Theatre Subscribers and most agreed this production of Desire Under the Elms was the most provocative performance of O'Neill's plays. This play defines a dysfunctional family in an understandable manner.

The play will be at Goodman Theatre until March 1st, and you can call for tickets at 312-443-3800 visit GoodmanTheatre.org.

Fulcrum Point celebrates 10th Anniversary

Under Founding Artisitc Director Stephen Burns, Fulcrum Point New Music Project has led Cicago audiences on a sonic adventure since 1998, solidifying Fulcru Point's reputation as the city's leader in new art music and inventive collaborations between classical music and popular culture. The celebration stated with Soundtracks in New Art Music benenfit concert in the fall of 2008.

In the winter of 2008 Modern Myths which consisted of four dance premieres and zodia inspired music and a solo dance by Prajwal Ratna Vajracharya to Traditonal Tantric Buddish music. The Premiere of Hayagriva by Delhi born composer Param Vir and the Chicago Premier of Sonnets of Orpheus took place in January.

Now Dada Machinations will illuminate the 20th century Dada art movement, along with Robert Zuiedamk'w punk inspired Three Medchanisms and Larry Miller's minimalist Fluxus styled Remote Music, on Tuesday March 3rd. All Fulcrum Point New Music concerts take place at the Harris Theater 205 East Randolph. Visit www.fulcrumpoint.org or call 312-726-3846.

The Seafarer runs through February 22

It's Christmas Eve in Dublin. In the rundown house where Sharky cares for his blind brother, old acquaintances gather for a card game, joined by an ominous stranger. As the booze flows and the game intensifies, Sharky discovers he is playing for his soul. In this eerie, darkly humorous tale, celebrated playwright Conor McPherson examines how we face the demons of our past as we struggle to find redemption.

The Seafarer is the second of two plays by Conor McPherson that premiered in Chicago at Steppenwolf this season.

Born in Dublin, playwright Conor McPherson's plays include The Seafarer (premiered on Broadway in 2007), Poor Beast in the Rain, Port Authority, Dublin Carol (premiered on Broadway in 2002), The Weir (premiered on Broadway in 1999), St Nicholas and This Lime Tree Bower..

Mr. McPherson won London 's prestigious Olivier Award for The Weir and received a Tony nomination for Shining City.

Seafarer is premiering at Steppenwolf Downstairs Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St until February 22, 2009, there will be no 7:30 p.m. performance on Sunday, February 15.

Half-price rush tickets are available one hour before each show. Student discounts available.

Audience Services:

Call for tickets at 312-335-1650 Online ticketing at www.steppenwolf.org.

Art comes to Steppenwolf

Yasmina Reza play "Art" comes to Steppenwolf Theatre directed by ensemble member Rick Snyder Feb 5 through June 7, 2009. The play "Art" is translated by Christopher Hampton.

Various ensemble members will star including Ian Barford, K. Todd Freeman, Joe Dempsey, John Procaccino and Francis Guinan. "Art" explores the intricacies of a long term friendship between three men. The play explores the power of art to engage the imagination and the bonds of friendship.

Call the box office for tickets at 312-335-1650.

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Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago

Saturday, February 21, 2009 3:00 p.m.

The company of dynamic dancers and musicians celebrate the human spirit through traditional and social African and African-American dance. Muntu offers a repertoire that ranges from ritual African dances, performed as they were centuries ago, to contemporary choredgraphy.

This performance is sponsored by

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Wellness Center

How to Prevent Diabetes with Diet and Lifestyle Change

By Mary Ann Hodorowicz, Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator

1 – 3 pm, Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009
Includes new glucometer and refreshments!

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"The Pink Floyd Experience" Brings Classic Rock to the Center with a Tribute to the Legendary Group Saturday, February 28 at 8 P.M.

Psychedelic and Innovative Tribute Recreates Classic Pink Floyd Show

"The Pink Floyd Experience" pays tribute to one of the greatest and most influential bands of all time with a celebration of rock and spectacular stage craft at The Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University on Saturday, Feb. 28 at 8 p.m. Audience member's senses will be transported back to the 1970s with the timeless music and colors in psychedelic patterns, along with giant balloons, flashing lights and the quadraphonic sounds that take the stage.

"The Pink Floyd Experience" is more than just a flawless recreation of its legendary predecessor. It is a celebration of all things that Pink Floyd and their fans have cherished for decades. The Daily Page raves "It's like going to see an orchestra perform Mozart... The band's performance of 'Dark Side of the Moon' in its entirety underlines that. Bass player Gus Beaudoin and saxophonist Jesse Molloy were standouts, but the whole band was nearly flawless."

The two-hour concert is performed live utilizing more than $2.5 million worth of production equipment. From blinking eyes to marching hammers, to a 12-foot long pig blimp (one of Pink Floyd's most familiar images,) that flies over the incredulous audience, the spectacle that is "The Pink Floyd Experience" is sure to captivate a wide range of fans. The group's North American Premiere Tour, which began in 2004, has sold more than 40,000 tickets and earned almost $1.5 million at the box office. Shows in Toronto and Vancouver were sell-outs.

The performance features six talented musicians, and along with the eye-catching stage show it is expected to be a thrilling addition to The Center's 2008-2009 season line-up:

the Pink Floyd Experience Band Members

Tom Quinn is the band leader, lead guitarist and relentless crusader for all things "Pink Floyd." In 1973, "The Dark Side Of The Moon" was released. That same year Tom bought his first guitar, and started his first band. From day one, his chief mentor was David Gilmour. Tom also cites Joe Walsh and Leslie West as big influences on his playing. He dates the musical roots of PFX back to 1994, and Pink Floyd's Division Bell tour stop in San Diego . The band hit the stage in April 1995, and went on to garner many San Diego Music Awards from 1999 to 2003.

Gus Beaudoin started playing bass guitar at age 13. With almost 40 years of musical experience to draw from, Gus is well-respected by his peers for his talent and tenacity. Players such as Tim Bogart, Chris Squire, Stanley Clarke, and also early Motown and the Monkees were big influences on Gus's powerful and rock-solid style. Gus has toured across the United States and Canada playing many styles of music, including rock, country, jazz, disco, and classical. Gus and Tom Quinn joined up in 1997 and started playing Floyd music anywhere someone would let them set-up their equipment, out of pure love for the music of Pink Floyd.

Graham Heath, lead vocalist for PFX, grew up in Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire, England, and has been singing and recording for the last ten years in the United States and Europe. Graham has enjoyed working alongside artists such as Waz Not Woz, producer Bruce Forrest, Jack Bruce of Cream, and was invited to record by Bill Wyman in the Rolling Stones mobile studio. Recently Graham founded and was signed to One/UK/USA record and publishing company. Recognized as a natural live performer, Graham is an inspiration and welcome addition to PFX.

Jesse Molloy, saxophone player based out of San Diego is a dynamic complement to the PFX sound. Jesse tours nationally with his group, On The One, which is lead by Jesse and PFX drummer John Staten. Jesse has toured internationally with several acts, including the Giant People Ensemble, and the Jamaican National Orchestra. Molloy has shared stages with many including Karl Denson and the Wailers. He has studied under the great Charles McPherson and Rhett Bender.

John Cox has been playing keyboards since age 9, and is self-taught. In 1976 he bought a Moog synthesizer and formed the space music group Embryo with synthesist Steve Roach and was hooked on creating atmospheres and textures with sound. John cites Jan Hammer, Beethoven, Carl Stalling, and Frank Zappa as his major influences. He has also played keys in the YES tribute band Roundabout, and the Jethro Tull tribute Heavy Horses. John resides in San Diego , California , and in his spare time he loves to ride his GSX-R and Supermoto bikes at track days with his two sons.

John Staten, with no formal training, began playing drums in church at age 5. Heavily influenced by a musical family, he started touring at age 20 with various funk bands such as Giant People, and Karl Denson's Tiny Universe (KDTU). At age 28 he tours nationally with his own band On The One along side of Jesse Molloy, PFX own saxophonist. Within the last 8 years, Staten has been able to play with artist such as The Allman Brothers Band, Lenny Kravitz, the Wailers and many others.

The Pink Floyd Experience comes to The Center Saturday, Feb. 28 at 8 p.m. Tickets are $34 / $47 / $54. Tickets are available by calling The Center box office at 708.235.2222 or online at centertickets.net. Buy one, get one free tickets are available at the box office two hours prior to curtain for one hour only, based upon availability. For group ticket (parties of 20 or more) information, call 815.756.1263. The Center is located at 1 University Parkway (Governors Highway and University Parkway), 45 minutes south of the Loop , off I-57 at Sauk Trail. Parking is free.

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The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program Offers Free Tax Help

Are you puzzled by the tax law and which credits and deductions you still can take? Free tax help is available through the VITA program sponsored by Stickney Township Office on Aging in Burbank , IL.

Help with basic income tax returns will be offered on Thursdays from February through April 9, 2009 by trained and certified community Volunteer Tax Assistors.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program offers free assistance to those with low-to-moderate incomes, including persons with disabilities, limited-English proficiency and older taxpayers who file Form 1040EZ, Form 1040A, or basic Form 1040 Federal tax returns. Our Volunteer Tax Assistors also assist community members in claiming any special credits and deductions for which they may be eligible.

Community members who visit a Volunteer Tax Site should bring this year's tax package, wage and earnings statement (Form W-2) from all employers, interest statements from banks (Form 1099), and copy of last year's tax return, and other relevant information about income and expenses. Volunteer Tax Assistors must complete an IRS training and certification course in basic income tax return preparation before they can assist customers.

Please call the Louis S. Viverito Senior Center at (708) 636-8850 to schedule your appointment.

David Rousséve Returns to the Dance Center for Chicago Premiere

March 12–14 Performances Feature International Cast

Exploring universal emotions through a multicultural lens, David Roussève returns with his company REALITY to The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago for the Chicago premiere of his newest dance-theatre work Saudade. Performances are March 12–14, 2009, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. at The Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago.

Saudade is an ode to the idea of "bittersweet," the moment when the greatest joy and agony are experienced together. The dance unfolds through stories written and performed by Roussève chronicling the bittersweet history of African Americans in the Southern U.S., featuring a sound score of traditional and contemporary Portuguese Fado music and an international cast including practitioners of South Asian, Indonesian and West African dance forms. The result, as described by Roussève, is a "gumbo of text, projected video, Fado music and postmodern and world dance. The text—a collection of character monologues by Southerners from differing time periods—provides the spine of the piece... there is quite a bit of wild and eccentric humor, but it does not shy away from the grit and hardness of life. Like much of my work, Saudade is a roller coaster of emotional highs and lows."

As part of David Roussève/REALITY's residency, there will be a post-performance discussion with the artists on Thursday, March 12. Roussève also will lead a DanceMasters class Monday, March 9 at 6 p.m. at the Chicago Cultural Center Dance Studio, 77 E. Randolph. DanceMasters is a series of community master classes presented by The Dance Center's division of Community Outreach and Education (COE). Spring 2009 DanceMasters is funded in part by The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, in partnership with the Lou Conte Dance Studio of the Hubbard Street Dance Center and the Chicago Cultural Center. Classes are for dancers at the intermediate level or higher.

David Roussève/REALITY, founded in 1989 by David Roussève, is an ethnically and artistically diverse troupe acclaimed for its highly original form of expressionistic dance theatre that blends elements of dance and performance art with African-American traditional and pop cultures. "Part of my Dance Center Presents David Roussève/REALITY March 12–14/Add One company's artistic agenda is to create a dialogue with as many communities and audiences as possible, both on and off stage, by using African-American culture to speak on 'universal issues of the heart,'" Roussève explained. REALITY has grown to become one of the most important voices in contemporary American dance, commissioned three times by the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave Festival and performing to great critical acclaim in large and intimate venues across the globe.

Roussève and REALITY also have a long history with The Dance Center, which co-commissioned his first important work, Urban Scenes/Creole Dreams, and has presented all his subsequent major works. "The Dance Center has consistently given me some of the best community interactions of any presenter I have worked with," Roussève said.

The Dance Center's presentation of David Roussève/REALITY is supported by the Performing Arts Fund, a program of Arts Midwest funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes a great nation deserves great art, with additional contributions from the Illinois Arts Council, General Mills Foundation and Land O'Lakes Foundation. Additional funding is provided by the New England Foundation for the Arts, with lead funding from Doris Duke Charitable Trust and additional funding from The Ford Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, JP Morgan Chase Foundation and MetLife Foundation.

The 2008–09 season concludes with Delfos Danza Contemporánea (Apr. 2–4).

The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago, named "Chicago's Best Dance Theatre" by Chicago magazine and "Best Dance Venue" by the Chicago Reader, is the city's leading presenter of contemporary dance, showcasing artists of regional, national and international significance. Programs of The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago are supported, in part, by Alphawood Foundation, The Chicago Community Trust, The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince, Arts Midwest, Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, The Irving Harris Foundation, The Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family Foundation, The Japan Foundation and the New England Foundation for the Arts. Additional funding is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Illinois Arts Council. Special thanks to Friends of The Dance Center. Programming is subject to change.

The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago presents David Roussève/REALITY March 12–14, 2009, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are $24–28. All performances take place at The Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave. The Dance Center does not allow late seating at its performances. The theatre is accessible to people with disabilities. The DanceMasters class on Monday, March 9, at 6 p.m. at the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph, is $15; participants also may purchase the remaining two classes during the season for $24; space is limited. For more information, call 312-369-6600 or visit colum.edu/dancecenter.

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Far South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 3 February 3, 2009

Kathy Passafiume

Orland Township Wins Illinois Township Youth Department of the Year Award

Under the supervision of Clinical Director and Township resident Kathy Passafiume, Orland Township's Youth & Family Services Department has once again been awarded the Illinois Township Youth Department of the Year Award. The award represents the bringing to fruition, a vision of affordable and comprehensive prevention, outreach and clinical services to the community. This, she attributes to a cohesive, other focused staff, whose motto is, "There's no I in team". Assisting Passafiume with her vision is that team consisting of a creative force, Assistant Administrator Mary Hastings, the clinical staff, Beth Bowman, Alison Boutcher and Heather Jelonek, who provide the services, and interns who, at the end of their formal training, are integrating the skills necessary to provide these much needed services wherever their career path takes them.

The services span the lifecycle and the following are a sample....

The Youth & Family Service Department works very closely with the Municipal Courts to provide consequential venues per infraction. We have a good working relationship with the Police Departments, local courts and the schools as well. Entities such as the L.I.O.N.S. ask our assistance and we happily oblige. Programs such as F.O.C.U.S. (focus on character, you succeed) and The Alternative to Detention program encourage reevaluation of decisions that may not have worked out for the young people. They are excellent opportunities for education and redirection. We have a prevention youth group, entitled O.T.Y.C. (Orland Township Youth Commission) wherein young people are offered community service projects as well as recreational activities. "Help Us Help You Get Your Community Service Hours" partners talented youth, willing to share a skill with those eager to learn. We have soccer clinics, BBQ's, Cosmic Bowls and camps, and although different, each shares the common thread of people helping people.

Prevention programs regarding substance abuse are continually updated based on relevant information of the time. The prevention of stress is addressed through programs such as "Mind Body Connection" and "Holiday Magic, Stress Be Gone". The University of Illinois facilitates various outreach programs for us concerning relevant topics such as budgeting, decluttering and credit scores.

There are drop-in groups that address the disconnection that some people feel. C.H.I.L.L. (Conversation Helps in Ladies' Lives) and The Reminiscence Group are examples. Learning from Others reaches people seeking camaraderie with those familiar with the challenges of a "special child".

We have a program for the siblings of challenged family members. There is a group for families who adopt, grandparents raising grandchildren and various groups for life transitions and loss.

Anger Management is offered to all ages in a variety of options, such as one hour weekly or full day workshop format, as are the social skills groups. The Parenting Classes are very popular and are offered for the parenting of younger children and teenagers.

There is also Cooperative Parenting for divorced couples who are still actively engaged in their children's lives.

Clinical services also include individual, couple group and family counseling. We also serve as a referral source and work very diligently to help find solutions to life's problems.

We are honored to work in this community and look forward to continuing to provide services that make Orland Township 's Youth & Family Service department an award winner. Help us help you be the best you can be.

To learn more about Orland Township Youth and Family Services award winning programs please call (708)403-4001.

Village of Orland Park Unveils Pothole Hotline

Motorists in the Village of Orland Park can join forces with village's Public Works Department in the continuing battle against potholes.

The brainchild of Trustee Brad O'Halloran, the village's Pothole Hotline invites drivers to call in or report pothole locations on-line.

"The phone calls and on-line reports will help our Public Works crews," said Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin. "We have more than 300 miles of roads in the village and our staff may not know about a problem unless it's reported," the mayor added.

Potholes are common in areas known for ice, snow and below freezing temperatures. The freezing and thawing cycles allow moisture to seep into voids in the road surface, causing the road to crumble.

To report a pothole in the Village of Orland Park , drivers may call 708/403-5010 or sign onto the village's website at www.orland-park.il.us. A link to the Public Works Department's pothole reporting option appears on the opening page. Callers are asked to give their names, addresses and phone numbers as well as the locations of the potholes, including the nearest cross streets.

O'Halloran noted, "If the pothole isn't within the village's jurisdiction, Public Works staff will notify the responsible agency Orland or Palos Township, Cook or Will County or the State of Illinois . We'll also get back to the callers, letting them know that their report has been forwarded."

Potholes in the village are filled by the Streets Division of the Public Works Department. "Weather permitting, we're planning a one business day turn around," said Public Works Director Peter Casey.

"If our crews aren't able to repair a hole within one business day, our staff will call the reporting motorist to let them know the status of the repairs," Casey said.

"With the community's help, village crews can stay on top of pothole locations and quickly repair them," the mayor added.

Mangers of Senior Centers, Nursing Homes, Retirement Centers, Hospitals, Medical Clinics, Dentists advertise in the Health and Senior issue, and more. Call Linda, 312-624-8996

Oak Forest submits resolution

The city council at the Jan. 27 Oak Forest City Council meeting approved a resolution in support of the Southwest Water System Expansion and Rehabilitation project. The resolution will be submitted to the Illinois congressional delegation for inclusion into the federal stimulus infrastructure-financing program. The project is the result of the master planning effort of the Village of Oak Lawn to improve service and reliability to the 12 municipalities they supply water to.

Other highlights: The city council approved an ordinance amending the personnel structure of the Fire Department. This ordinance amends the ordinance adopted in December 2008, which reflected several promotions, the offices in and the number of full time employees in each office in the fire department. The 2009 Motor Fuel Tax road program, which includes the cost of the road program, design engineering, and the purchase of salt and the maintenance engineering agreement in the amount of $1,230,00, was also approved.

A request to purchase two F350 pickup trucks with snow plows and one F450 service truck from Currie Motors through the suburban purchasing cooperative joint purchase program in an amount not to exceed $110,342 was also approved.

Oak Lawn Chapter of Aglow holds meeting in February

The Oak Lawn Chapter of Aglow International will meet on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009 at Mama Luigi's Restaurant, 7500 S. Harlem, Bridgeview, Illinois

Reverend Michael Winters, a native of Florida, will be the speaker this month. He taught Physical Education until he was called to active duty in the US Army. He served in Korea for a year. It was during this time that he realized God was calling him to the Gospel Ministry.

He graduated from seminary in 1976 and again in 1992 with an advance degree in ministry. He has served churches as pastor in Georgia, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Illinois; and is presently the Interim Pastor of Oak Lawn Community Church.

Pastor Winters had major responsibility with the Presbyterian Hunger Ministry at both the national and regional levels. He dreams of a day when all of God's children will be gathered at God's table of plenty, filled and satisfied and enjoying each other.

Pastor Mike is married to Anna Case-Winters who joined the faculty of McCormick Theological Seminary in 1986. Together they have three children; Jenny is a graduate student in Astronomy at Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA. Mike is a Junior at the College of Wooster, with a major in Physics and Music. Danny is a freshman at Oak Park River Forest High School in Oak Park.

Come & bring a friend to relax and hear, "Witnessing the good news of Jesus".

Dinner tickets are $13.00, available at 6:30PM at the door. Dinner is served promptly at 7:00PM. Reservations are required by February 10th.

For additional information and reservations please call June at (708) 424-1656.

Mardi Gras Dinner Dance

Orland Township is sponsoring a Mardi Gras Dinner Dance for seniors age 55 and over. The dinner dance will be held on Thursday, February 19, 2009 at the Orland Chateau, 14500 S. LaGrange Rd. , Orland Park, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Tickets are necessary and may be purchased at the Orland Township office, 15100 S. 94th Ave. , Orland Park . Tickets for residents are $16.00 each and are available now. Non-resident tickets are $21.00 each and will be available on January 22. Ticket price includes a family style meal and entertainment by Don Reitsma and the Variety Pak. Door prizes and a 50/50 raffle will be offered. The Orland Township office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday evenings until 6:00 p.m. For more information, contact Kathy Kenyeri, Senior Services Coordinator, at (708) 403-4222.

Guild for the Blind

If you or someone you know has new vision loss and don't know where to go for help, this program is for you! New Visions is a four-session workshop that introduces participants to vision rehabilitation. Important information and hands on demonstrations are shared in an interactive and supportive environment.

Topics include: Emotional aspects of vision loss; sighted guide and self-advocacy; labeling and organizing techniques to better manage your time, money, and household; strategies and factors to consider to maximize remaining vision; magnification products; talking and large print products; techniques for dining with confidence; and adaptations for recreational pastimes.

A friend or family member is welcome to attend in order to gain a better understanding of what a person with low vision experiences on a daily basis and how they can best provide support to meet your needs. Participants will receive a resource guide and audio cassette complete with all program information and additional resources. This free program will take place on Thursdays, March 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at Orland Township , 15100 South 94th Ave. , Orland Park . There will be an introduction seminar on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 10:00a.m. To register for this program you can call (708) 403-4222 Monday through Friday, 8:00a.m. until 4:30p.m. and Tuesdays from 8:00a.m. until 6:00p.m

Tot Time Preschool "SNEAK PREVIEW"

The Tinley Park-Park District will host a Sneak Preview for anyone who would like to visit the preschool facilities and obtain information about the Tot Time Preschool Program for the 2009–2010 school year.

The preview is scheduled for Saturday, February 7 from 10:00–11:30 am at the Tony Bettenhausen Recreation Center, 8125 W. 171st Street and the Vogt Woods Building, 6527 W. 171st Street .

Registration is not required for the Sneak Preview. Registration for the 2009-2010 school year begins March 1 for Tinley Park-Park District residents, and April 1 for non-residents.

The Tot Time Preschool Program provides a warm, nurturing environment for three- and four-year-old students.Children participate in a variety of developmentally appropriate activities including creative art experiences, singing and rhythm activities and activities related to every-day math and science discovery. The Tot Time Preschool Program has been in existence since 1975.

For additional information, contact Program Coordinator Mary Wrobel at (708) 342-4200.

Together We Cope hosts their eighth dinner dance

Together We Cope, a homeless prevention agency based in Tinley Park, hosts its eighth annual dinner dance and silent auction Friday, Feb. 20th at Odyssey Country Club in Tinley Park. TWC serves families in crisis from 22 south suburban communities, and this is a major fundraising event for the agency.

Tickets are $75 per person or $675 for a table of 10. Raffle tickets are available in advance for $25 each for a chance to win $1,000 or various other prizes. During the silent auction, bids can be made on many other items donated for the event. TWC welcomes donations from local businesses for the silent auction, as well as advertising in our program book for this event. Further information is available from Karen Moran, fundraising coordinator, at (708) 633-5040. Together We Cope is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit agency that served more than 23,000 people last year.

State Reimburses Orland Park for Road Improvements

Officials Plan to Fund More Road Projects

The Village of Orland Park received a $3.81 million dollar payment from the State of Illinois , partially reimbursing the village for the cost to improve the intersection of 159th Street and LaGrange Road .

"We're very pleased that the village has been partially reimbursed for what we spent to make the long needed improvements at 159th Street and LaGrange," said Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin.

McLaughlin added, " Orland Park takes a proactive approach and serves as a primer for these projects. The village enjoys a good working relationship with the Illinois Department of Transportation."

The state's partial reimbursement enables the village to fund more road improvements. The Village of Orland Park has completed the early engineering phases for improvements to 143rd Street, 153rd Street , 104th Avenue and Wolf Road , 70% of which is reimbursed by the state.

"Orland Park getting these projects moving and the state reimbursing the village shows how well local and state government can work together," McLaughlin added.

Oak Forest Council approves contract for 155th Street culvert replacement

On January 27, the Oak Forest City Council approved an award of contract in the amount of $230,031.12 to D Construction for the replacement of a new culvert that crosses 155th Street in Natalie Creek .

In addition to the culvert replacement, Construc-tion D will install a trench drain across Natalie Drive, south of 155th Street , to prevent street flooding in the Natalie South Subdivision. During construction, which is scheduled to begin on June 8, 155th Street, between Natalie Drive and Long Avenue, will be closed to all traffic for approximately one month. The city will pay only $166,200 of the $554,000 paving project. The balance of $387,800 will be paid for with federal funds.

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South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 3

February 3, 2009

Attention Palos Park Seniors

Seniors living in Palos Park are invited to join our newly formed senior club.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 9, 2009, at noon.

We meet in the lower level of the Recreation Center, 8901 West 123rd Street, Palos Park.

We have planned a lite lunch, a speaker from PLOWS Council on Aging and a Valentine Day Sing-A-Long.

Call (708) 480-4103 to order lunch or for information.

Palos Park Library will present open night mic

Open Mic Night is back at the Palos Park Public Library on Wednesday, February 4th at 7:00 pm.

This program is free and opened to all writers, poets, and fans of the written word.

The mic is opened to readers for the first half of the program followed by our feature reader, Chicago poet Larry Janowski.

Sign up for the mic begins at 7:00 pm. Call the library for any questions at (708) 448-1530.

The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd. in Palos Park .

Left to right: Chief Gary Swiecrz and Village President Ed Guzdziol

Worth takes a leap by changing of the guard

Worth Fire Chief Gary Swiecrz presented Village President Ed Guzdziol a beautifully framed picture depicting the fire fighters employed by the Village at the time of their transfer to The North Palos Fire Protection District.

As of January 1st, the Village is served by The North Palos Fire Protection District. Residents will see fire and ambulance apparatus with that insignia on them. Worth residents are benefiting from this merger by having a better staffed fire house with 5 men on staff at all times.

Palos Heights Director receives award

Mike Leonard, Director of Parks and Recreation for Palos Heights Recreation Department, was presented the South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA) "Award of Excellence" for his dedication and leadership as a SWSRA Board member.

One of Leonard's main accomplishments as a SWSRA board member was to name SWSRA as the only local charity to benefit from the Palos Bank Half Marathon in 2008. SWSRA was presented a check in the amount of $5,000.

Mr. Leonard is always thinking of how he can service all the residents in Palos Heights , and he keeps individuals with disabilities close to his heart. "Mike is one of the most committed and caring people I've had the pleasure to work with" said Lori Chesna, Executive Director of SWSRA. "We are all very proud of Mr. Leonard."

Palos Heights promotes Golden Anniversary

The city council at a recent Palos Heights City Council meeting approved a contract with Barcelona Creative Group, a Palos Heights based public relations firm, in an amount not to exceed $5,000 to assist the city's 50th anniversary committee in planning and promoting the city's 50th anniversary. Event brochures have been released - the first event was the Lake Katherine Winter Fest. The firm will also design a 50th anniversary logo honoring the city's incorporation in 1959 and will help with advertising commemorative events.

The firm recently designed a logo for the 65th anniversary of the Palos Heights Public Library. The Chamber of Commerce hired the firm to redesign their web site, which was completed approximately one month ago. Officials announced that channel four is testing to see if they can stream videos on the city's website.

The city's website would have a link to channel 4 and the videos would include past committee and commission meetings, public hearings, and city council meetings. Which would be accessible by clicking on the channel 4 link of the city's website palosheights.org. More information regarding the cities 50th anniversary may be obtained by calling the city hall at 361-1800.

Worth Public Library announces presentations

On Saturday, February 21st, The Worth Public Library District, 6917 w. 111th Street, will hold a chili cooking demonstration. The program will be at 1:00 pm in the Library Meeting Room. Chef Michael Niksic, known as The Food Mercenary, will present the program. The dish demonstrated will be from Chef Niksic's own recipe for Roast Turkey, Red Bean & Andouille Sausage Chili with tortillas. There will be chili, beverages, and prize giveaways. Please register at Worth Public Library or by phone at 448-2855.

On Saturday, February 28th, The Worth Public Library District, 6917 W. 111th Street , will hold a slide lecture program about Edvard Munch at 1:00 pm in the Library Meeting Room. Dr. Michelle Paluch-Mishur of Art Excursions will discuss Munch's intriguing artistic vision through a study of paintings and prints that relate closely to his biography. She will survey Munch's major themes and explain how relationships during his formative years affected his approach to various subjects.

Please register at Worth Public Library or by phone at 448-2855.

State's Attorney Alvarex Appointed by Lt. Governor to Illinois Reform Commission

Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez was recently appointed to the Illinois Reform Commission, a committee by Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn to propose reforms to address recent statewide scandals in state government.

" I am honored to be chosen to serve with such a distinguished panel of citizens from all walks of life" said Alvarez. " I look forward to presenting my perspective and proposing reforms to help eradicate waste and corruption in government and restore public confidence".

The panel will study the law and practices of the state government and propose reforms to address abuses of power. The committee plans to " release an interim report detailing their findings by the summer of 2009.

Are you having a Mardi Gras Party, or Fat Tuesday Day Specials, Bake Sale, Sweet Table, Pancake Breakfast, or fundraiser. Call for all details at 312-624-8996.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

B-MAC EDITION

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 3

February 3, 2009

SWSRA Employee and volunteer awards

South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA) has given Marty Lyons their 2008 Volunteer of the Year Award. Marty has been a SWSRA volunteer for many years. He referees for Special Olympics basketball and volleyball games, as well as umpires Challenger Little League and Special Olympics softball games. Marty is a long time resident of Alsip and also volunteers for the Alsip Park District. Executive Director Lori Chesna said, "Marty is one of the most generous, dedicated and humble individuals I have ever known. He does not like people to make a fuss over him, and he will tell you he gets back two fold of what he gives to these individuals whom he calls his "friends." Marty brings so much to our programs with his humor, charm and laid back attitude. SWSRA is very blessed to have Mary Lyons as part of our team!"

SWSRA also named Marge Cozzone as the 2008 Employee of the Year. Marge has worked as the Business Manager at SWSRA for 8 years. "She is very competent and has a terrific attitude," said Chesna. "Cozzone is the first face people see when they come to register for programs. She has grown to love the clients and knows each of them by first name. Cozzone makes everyone feel welcome when they step in the SWSRA office."

SWSRA is a non-profit organization that provides recreation programs, trips and special events for children and adults with disabilities. SWSRA serves the following communities: Alsip, Blue Island , Justice, Merrionette Park , Midlothian, Palos Heights , Posen, Summit and Worth. If you would like more information on SWSRA services, please contact 708-389-9423

A Veterans Expo in March

A Veterans Expo will take place on March 21, 2009 at the City East Annex, 2434 Vermont Street, Blue Island, IL, from 9am to 1pm.

This event is sponsored by American Legion Post 50, the City of Blue Island, and Metro South Hospital

Blue Island Park District announces their programs

Self Defense
Combining discipline, self-control, and various skills from martial arts. This class promotes confidence and physical safety for children
Dates: Session 2: Feb. 11-March 11. No class Feb. 25
Session 3: March 18-April 22 No class April 15
Session 4: April 29-May 20
Price: $30/res $40/non-res
Ages: 5-16
Time: 5-6pm
Place: Memorial Park

Min/Max: 5/25
Instructor: Dave Cervantes

Walking enthusiast?
Walk the Blue Island Park District's ½ Mile Walking Path.Start logging your miles and receive a free T-shirt for every 25 miles. Stop into the park for your information to get you started!

Keep an eye out for our walking club this spring!

Join us for our Yoga program at the Blue Island Park District
Ages: 15 years +
Session Dates:
Mondays -
Session 1: January 12-February 23: $49.00 residents/$63.00 non-residents
Session 2: March 2-April 13: $49.00 residents/$63.00 non-residents
Session 3: April 20-May 19: $35.00 residents/ $45.00 non-residents

Time: Beginning Yoga 6:00pm· 7;30 pm
Continuing Yoga 7:45pm-9:15 pm
Place: Memorial Park Field House 12804 Highland Avenue Blue Island, IL 60406.

Instructor: Mike LaRocca

Michael LaRocca has been teaching yoga for over 38 years including Purdue University Calumet from 1976-1994 and Moraine Valley Community college from 1972-present.

He has studied with Yogi Sri Nerode of the Bengal province of India for over sixteen years until Nerode passed away in 1983 at the age of 95.

Yoga classes include relaxing exercises which relieve tension and restore good health; breathing techniques for a higher level of vitality, and meditation for calmness and clarity of the mind.

To register, please come to the Blue Island Park District's Memorial Park Field House. 12804 S. Highland Avenue, or call 708-385-3304 for more information.

Alsip approves water rate increase

Alsip Board of Trustees at the village board at the Jan.19 meeting approved an ordinance regarding a chapter and article of the municipal code pertaining to water and sewer rates. The changes will increase the water rates 23-percent per 1,000 gallons of water which equates to a 38 cent increase per 1,000 gallons . This increase is reflective of the 15 percent water increase by the City of Chicago.

Other highlights The village board approved a request from Burr Oak Cemetery, 4400 W. 127th Street, to replace a temporary trailer with a modular office building, which will be set behind their existing office. A request from the Alsip Chamber of Commerce to place a portable sign in front of Prairie Junior High School beginning February 23 and to place plastic signs throughout the village beginning Feb. 16 to advertise the Community Expo, which will be held on Feb. 28, was also approved.

U.S. Labor Department's OSHA cites Alsip, Ill.-based company for workplace safety violations

Federal action proposes $225,000 in penalties

ALSIP, Ill. – The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has proposed a total of $225,000 in fines against Certified Painting Co. Inc. in Alsip for an alleged eight willful and nine serious violations of federal workplace safety standards.

OSHA's investigation, opened in July 2008, cited Certified Painting Co. Inc. for failure to have proper carbon monoxide monitoring devices; to provide and ensure workers were using personal protective clothing; to provide required hygiene facilities and ensure workers conducted required hygiene practices after possible exposure to lead or other hazardous materials; and to provide U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets and have a lifesaving skiff immediately available at locations where employees were working over or adjacent to water.

The company also has been cited for failure to provide proper fall protection and equipment for employees working on scaffolding; to maintain a safety and health program; to provide a required training program prior to employees being exposed to lead; and to conduct regular inspections of the jobsite by a competent person.

"Failing to practice required OSHA safety and health standards is detrimental to the welfare of American workers," said Gary Anderson, director of the agency's area office in Calumet City , Ill. "Any employer that is committed to providing a safe place of work can avoid employee injuries and fatalities by following OSHA's regulations."

Certified Painting Co. Inc. performs industrial painting on bridges and other construction projects throughout the state of Illinois . The company has been inspected by OSHA 16 times and has been cited for safety and health violations more than 100 times since 1976.

Certified Painting Co. Inc. has 15 business days from receipt of the latest citations to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA's area director or contest the citations before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthy workplace for their employees.

OSHA's role is to promote the safety and health of America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards; providing training, outreach and education; establishing partnerships; and encouraging continual process improvement in workplace safety and health. For more information, visit www.osha.gov.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

Your Suburban Newspaper for 35 years

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VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 35 Number 15 February 17, 2009

Pictured (from left to right) are Nick Shine as Don Lockwood, Maryl Pinotti as Kathy Selden, and Walt Sabbath as Cosmo Brown.

Evergreen Park Community High School presents *Singin' in the Rain*

Classic songs, tap dance, and real rain will entertain as Evergreen Park Community High School Theater Department proudly presents "Singin' in the Rain". Performances are Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 22 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are $6 for adults and $5 for students and seniors. There is a special discount for the Sunday matinee only. For tickets, please call 398-1236.

Southwest Chicago Christian School holding a March Children's Clothing Resale

Southwest Chicago Christian School is holding a Spring/ Summer Children's Clothing and Equipment Resale on Saturday, March 14, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

It will be in the gym at their Oak Lawn campus, located at 5665 West 101st Street in Oak Lawn, IL..

Interested sellers can call for registration until February 28,2009, with a registration fee of $10.

Call the school office at 708-636-8550 to find out how to register by phone. The seller will receive 70% of the sale, the school receives 30%.

The sale will be cash only. No children or baskets/bags will be allowed into the sale. Everyone is invited .

Evergreen Park amends ordinances

The village board approved an ordinance at the Feb. 2 Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting amending a section regarding landscape waste and recycling service charge of a chapter regarding solid waste of the municipal code was also approved. The service charge for pick up of residential waste, landscaping waste and recyclables from each dwelling unit of single family residence shall be billed per quarterly period as follows: $49.80 from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009; $52.05 from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010; $54.42 from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011. This service charge may be added to the water bill.

An ordinance amending an ordinance of a section and chapter of the municipal code regarding fire prevention and protection in regards to discharge of hazardous materials was also approved. The ordinance requires the village to be reimbursed at an hourly rate of $250 or any portion thereof, for fire apparatus, equipment, ambulance or emergency response vehicles and $150 per hour, or a portion thereof, for other motor vehicles, including police cars, responding to the occurrence and $70 per hour or a portion thereof, for personnel. All other charges will be billed at their reasonable and customary rate. The village board proclaimed the month of February as National Heart Month.

Twilight Book Club

Bring your best friend, a comfy blanket, get yourself a cup of hot chocolate and get comfortable for the Bridgeview Public Library's Teen Book Club!

This will be our first meeting to be held on Thursday February 26 starting at 6:30 pm.

Copies of the book are available for checkout now.

Please come to the library to register. If you can't register in person please call Toni at (708) 458-2880 ext. 110. The Library is located at 7840 W. 79th Street

Hot chocolate and treats are provided by the library.

Evergreen Park Senior Citizens' holds meeting

The Senior Citizens' Council of Evergreen Park will hold their February 19 meeting at 11:30am in the new Village Cultural Center located at 9547 S. Homan Ave. After a short business meeting, join the group for lunch followed by a program. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month and are open to the public.

In keeping with this year's theme, John Measner, a local magician, will entertain with his feats of magic and illusion. Join in the fun - - Keep your inner child alive.

Home made beef stew prepared by Mrs. Pitluck will be served at noon. Purchase tickets ($6 each) at OCS (rm. 107) in the Community Center 3450 W. 97th Street.

Kindergarten registration Evergreen Park Elementary School District 124

Kindergarten Registration will take place at your local elementary school from 9:00 – 11:15 a.m. and 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. on the day listed below:

February 24, 2009 – Northeast School , 91st Street & California , #422-6501

February 25, 2009 – Southwest School , 99th & Central Park , #424-2444

February 26, 2009 – Southeast School , 98th Street & Francisco, #422-1021

February 27, 2009 – Northwest School , 92nd & Millard, #425-9473

If you are unable to register on the day listed above for your school, you may register your child beginning March 3, 2009 at the Administrative Office, 9400 South Sawyer, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

To help expedite the registration process, a registration packet, including medical forms, is available at each elementary school beginning February 19, 2009. This packet is to be returned to the school when registering. Upon registration you will also need: an original birth certificate, your child's social security number, a current Homeowner's Insurance Policy/Mortgage Papers or an original Apartment Lease/Certificate of Inspection from the Village, current photo ID (i.e. drivers license, state ID, passport) and two (2) additional items of identification demonstrating proof of residency (i.e. automobile insurance policy, voter registration, utility bills, pay check stub or statements).

The Board of Education of District 124, encourages parents to register their children as early as possible to help the District better plan for the 2009-2010 school year.

Oak Lawn High School teacher at large yet teacher in charge

Mr. Jeremey Cryan, a.k.a. Mr. Techno SMARTBoard, couldn't bear to be away from his students while he attended a technology conference. So he recorded a lesson on his SMARTBoard to be played by the substitute teacher while he attended the conference.

The lesson included slides that illustrated his pen strokes as he solved the problems and provided instruction for the students. The students felt like Mr. Cryan was right there with them, avoiding the difficult emotions students feel when their teachers are away.

NATIONAL TRUST MAIN STREET CENTER® holds annual revitalization conference in Chicago Theme of 2009 conference is "Becoming Main Street"

The National Trust Main Streets Center's annual conference – the premier conference on preservation-based commercial district revitalization and an annual showcase of best practices, tools, and great ideas to create dynamic, livable places – will focus this year on how new technological innovations, from Facebook to MySpace to Google Adwords, are transforming the way that Main Street businesses communicate, conduct business and promote themselves. National experts and practitioners in preservation-based commercial district revitalization will convene in Chicago at the 2009 National Main Streets Conference to focus on this year's theme: Becoming Main Street 2.0.

The conference, which is the largest of its kind, will be held at the Palmer House Hilton from March 1-4, 2009. Over the past 28 years, some 1,800 communities throughout the U.S. have been bringing vitality back to their once-struggling downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts with the National Trust Main Street Center's Main Street Four-Point Approach® methodology.

Also, for individuals new to the Main Street Four-Point Approach, a free, day-long Main Street 101 training will be held on Sunday, March 1, in the State Ballroom at the Palmer House Hilton (no registration required). "Main Streets are the heart and soul of our nation, and by preserving Main Streets' distinctive architecture, diverse people, and unique businesses, we are protecting the fabric of which our great communities are built," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

"All businesses need to adapt and embrace change, especially in rough economic times like these. We're focusing on technological innovations at this year's conference to showcase the dynamic ways that Main Street businesses are using technology to remain competitive amidst economic uncertainty." A few of the more than 60 exciting sessions featured at the conference include "Dude, What's Up Downtown," which focuses on how to get people from Generation X and Y interested in Main Street; "Successful Farmer's Markets from the Ground Up," a how-to for starting and operating a local farmers' market; "Modernism and Main Street" which explains the key role that buildings from the more recent past play on Main Street; and "Hispanic Leadership and Main Street," one of several sessions that explores the diverse contributions that Hispanics and other ethnic groups make to a successful Main Street community.

In addition to educational sessions, the National Trust Main Streets Center's conference will also include a number of field sessions exploring Main Street communities in Chicago and the surrounding area. A selection of this year's field sessions includes: Selling Preservation in Chicago's Latino Pilsen Neighborhood, a bus and walking tour that explores the successes and challenges of language and cultural barriers in this Main Street neighborhood. Urban Renewal 50 Years Later: From Urban Main Street to Suburban Thruway, a walking tour of Hyde Park's 55th Street, a thoroughfare that has long struggled to redefine itself after Urban Renewal demolished much of its historic character. Chicago's Andersonville Neighborhood: Local Sustainable Community Development, a guided walk-around and a panel discussion about Andersonville's economic development strategy, focusing on promotion and retention of locally owned businesses, architectural preservation, celebration of its Swedish heritage and modern diversity.

Historic Inner Ring Suburbs of Chicago, a tour that will visit Oak Park, Forest Park, Berwyn, and Riverside – inner-ring suburbs with unique challenges in maintaining the vitality of their traditional commercial district in the face of continuing demographic shifts, suburban sprawl, and the rising costs of maintaining local infrastructure and service.

Demetrio Maguigad, New Media Manager at Community Media Workshop in Chicago, is featured as the keynote speaker at the Opening Plenary Session on Monday, March 2, at the Palmer House Hilton. He will focus on how non-profits and small businesses can strategically use online communications tools.

Key speaker at the Closing Plenary on Wednesday, March 4, is Amber Naslund, president of Altitude. She will discuss the basic principles and foundation behind using social media tools.

In all, more than 60 educational sessions, workshops, and field sessions will focus on successful strategies for revitalizing downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts.

The conference attracts a wide range of professionals and volunteers, including directors of revitalization organizations, planners, architects, historic preservationists, business development specialists, economic development professionals, city management staff, CDC staff, and more.

With headquarters in Washington, DC, the National Trust for Historic Preservation provides leadership, education, advocacy and resources to a national network of people, organizations and local communities committed to saving places, connecting us to our history and collectively shaping the future of America's stories.

For more information www.PreservationNation.org

Chicago 2016 Releases Candidature File Following Official Submission to International Olympic Committee

Chicago 2016 officially released its Candidature File, or bid book as it is commonly known, to the public following the official submission to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Lausanne, Switzerland. The bid book is a three-volume, nearly 600-page document that responds to 227 major questions posed to all Candidate Cities by the IOC.

"This submission is a significant milestone in the bid process for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and we are excited to share our concept for delivering a spectacular Games experience with the people of Chicago, the nation and our supporters around the world," said Patrick G. Ryan, chairman and CEO of Chicago 2016. "If you distill the entire book down to a few core ideas, what emerges are the themes of friendship through sport and the quest to inspire young people to take up sport and strive for personal excellence and a healthy lifestyle."

Chicago 2016's plan places the athlete at the center of the Games—and the Games in the heart of the city. The lakeside Olympic Village will put 90 percent of the athletes within 15 minutes or less of their competition venues and training sites. By integrating the venues into Chicago's historic parklands and along the lakefront, Chicago 2016 has put the sport competitions in the midst of the accommodations, celebration sites, museums, dining, theater and shopping that make Chicago so vibrant. Chicago 2016's Games plan accelerates the revitalization of the near South Side.

Environmental sustainability and economic responsibility are hallmarks of Chicago's plan for the Games. In recognition of the historic and significant role of the lake and lakefront parklands in Chicago, Chicago 2016 created an environmental program under the banner of the Blue-Green Games, elevating the role of water in its drive for sustainability. As part of this program, all vehicles provided for Games operations will run on low-carbon fuels or electricity, and 100 percent of the electricity needed for the Games will come from renewable sources.

The Candidature File includes a detailed estimated Games budget for the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (OCOG) and projects $3.3 billion in expenses against $3.8 billion in revenues. The projected excess revenue represents $500 million in contingency funds that provide a significant cushion against potential revenue shortfalls or cost increases. Those funds are supplemented by Chicago 2016's additional financial strategies designed to insulate taxpayers from financial risk, for a total built-in safety net of up to $1 billion that is separate and apart from—and would take effect before—the City of Chicago's financial guarantee.

Direct Games-related costs for planning and operations, including temporary enhancements to existing facilities, will be covered entirely by private funding sources, such as tickets, broadcasting rights and sponsorships.

When adjusted for inflation, OCOG expenditures are less than 5 percent higher than the initial budget established during the domestic phase of the bid.

Total OCOG and non-OCOG expenditures equal $4.8 billion, which when adjusted for inflation represents a reduction in total expenditures of $80 million from the budget released during the domestic phase of the bid process. This decrease in cost is driven, in part, by the change in location for the Olympic Village.

The prudent financial stewardship applied by Chicago 2016 includes a budgetary assumption that the Olympic Village real estate deal will generate zero net revenue. Instead, organizers are now planning to raise $246 million in private donations. Any real estate proceeds that materialize would be used to pay for permanent venues and reduce the amount of donations required to be raised through a capital campaign.

A key element of the Chicago 2016 plan is to benefit from the city's existing infrastructure and assets, supplemented with temporary venues. Eighty-five percent of the sport competitions will take place within the 5-mile Olympic Ring in the heart of the city.

The placement of venues takes full advantage of the city's existing transport infrastructure and hospitality industry. Seventy-nine percent of sports will be staged in either existing or temporary venues, making the plan economically responsible.

The Chicago 2016 bid is also guided by a commitment to keep the Games experience afford-able. More than half of the competition tickets will be priced below $50. The average cost of tickets for competition events is projected at $71.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Hearty food in hard times

Together We Cope pantry has the ingredients to survive a recession

"Give me a chicken and I'll get you through the week."

"Carrots are a luxury. I can feed an army with cabbage and potatoes."

"If you've got beans, I'll give you soup."

Those are some words of wisdom passed down from Depression-era cooks to later generations. While food in America hasn't been quite so scarce since the Depression, the current recession challenges families to find creative ways to put low-cost but nutritious meals on the table every day.

Together We Cope staff took up the challenge in a recent experiment, rounding up ingredients from its food pantry to create healthy dishes that fill and satisfy. Together We Cope is a homeless prevention agency based in Tinley Park that serves families in crisis from 22 south suburban communities by providing food, clothing and emergency funding.

"Cooking the evening meal and gathering the family around the dinner table each evening is a good way to strengthen family relationships and cope with strained budgets in these hard times," said Kathryn Straniero, executive director of Together We Cope.

"Recent news reports indicate that in this worsening economy one in 10 Americans is now part of the federal food assistance program, primarily through food stamps. We see a lot of newly unemployed people at our agency, and many of our clients are working poor, people with jobs who still can't make ends meet. It seems this is a good time to get back to basics, to food shop wisely and get creative in the kitchen," Straniero said.

Sarah Hennessy couldn't agree more. She is the "Families First" supervisor at Together We Cope, which partners with South Suburban PADS in a HUD program to move families from homelessness to self-sufficiency. Hennessy takes her clients grocery shopping on limited budgets each month, teaching them to shop efficiently. "We go into the store with a game plan," she said, "working from a menu we planned ahead of time. We save time, money and gas by shopping efficiently and provide them with all the ingredients they need to cook good meals at home."

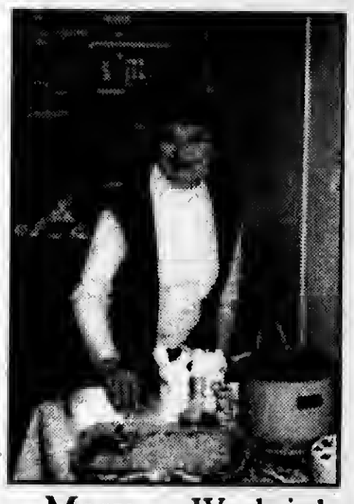
Hennessy was part of the TWC challenge to cook hearty meals from ingredients found in the pantry. She chose a bag of rice, black beans and pinto beans, tomato sauce and frozen chicken breasts from the pantry, then added some spices from home to produce a hot and spicy black bean chicken and rice casserole.

Catherine Dietz, office manager and volunteer coordinator at TWC, is a great fan of soup. "It's filling, nutritious and very soothing in cold weather. It's a comfort food, and we can all use some comfort in these trying times," she said. Dietz used soup stock, navy beans, fresh vegetables and some cubed ham for her hearty soup entry, all donated items found in the pantry over the course of several days.

Food pantry volunteer Mary Wodziak turned the traditional "pigs in the blanket" dish into a casserole by layering cabbage, ground beef, onion, rice, tomato soup and tomato sauce. She also created a hot pasta dish with tuna, broccoli and noodles. She loves to cook, and often creates multiple dishes for big family gatherings. "Sometimes I just feel like cooking, and call friends or family to come over and eat," she said.

Food pantry manager Carol Ettema served up a hot and hearty baked tuna noodle dish with peas, and also whipped up a boxed cherry cheesecake dessert. Jane Ryan mixed canned fruit with pistachio pudding, plain yogurt and cherries for another dessert entry.

"I believe things will get better in our country," Straniero said, "but it might be nice if some of the cost-cutting measures citizens are taking during this recession became lifelong habits of simplifying our lives and enjoying our families and friends."



Mary Wodziak loves to cook, and often shares her bountiful table with family and friends.

Here she presents her Together We Cope food pantry dishes of pigs-in-the-blanket casse-role and a hot tuna pasta casseerile.

Jane Ryan used multiple items from the food pantry to create a fruit and pudding dessert.

Together We Cope
17010 Oak Park Ave.
Tinley Park, IL
708-633-5040

Sarah Hennessy, "Families First" supervisor at Together We Cope, stirs her hot and spicy black bean chicken and rice casserole made from items at the agency's food pantry.

Oak Lawn Park District programs

• Adult Hockey Camp – The Oak Lawn Park District is offering an adult hockey camp at the Oak Lawn Ice Arena beginning Sunday, February 22 from 11:10 am – 12:10 pm.

This nine-week program is taught by a team of USA Hockey certified instructors and is designed to help develop fundamental skating and hockey skills. Fee for this program is $171 for Oak Lawn residents and $190 for non-residents. For more information call the Oak Lawn Ice Arena at 708-857-5173 or visit www.olparks.com.

• Teen Trip – Mayan Adventure Indoor Water Park – The Oak Lawn Park District is offering a teen trip to Mayan Adventure Indoor Water Park for those ages 10 -18 on Monday, March 2. It's always 82 degrees at the Mayan Adventure Indoor Water Park . Mayan Adventure features 24,000 square feet of fun water activities including tube slides, body slides, plunge pool, lazy river and water basketball. There is also a zero-depth pool. Fee is $45 and includes transportation, admission and lunch. Registration deadline is February 22.

For more information, call Colleen O'Gorman at 708-857-2420.

Publisher's Pen

by Annette Dixon

It has been said to me many times that Evergreen Park has its own paper the Evergreen Park Courier and I respected that remark.

What people did not know is that the Courier paper is part of the Messenger Press Company, which is based in Midlothian.

The Village View Newspaper started in Oak Lawn, 35 years ago by Vina O'Malley and was considered by many to be just an Oak Lawn paper. Untrue, we have four papers and the Suburban edition was based out of Evergreen Park and for the 30 previous years the Village View was distributed in Evergreen Park and Oak Lawn. Now we have four newspapers within 17 suburbs and enjoying the combined services we give each community. Now that's a true form of dedication.

Speaking of dedication, I was eating in Karson's Restaurant recently and speaking with Nick, the owner, he was telling me that he would like to see the Mayor and village employees eating there once in a while.

I immediately mentioned that Mayor Sexton has really be watching his weight and doesn't frequent restaurants as his predecessor had in the past.

You have to come in and meet Nick. Many times he may greet you and assit you to your table and other times he wants to carry on a conversation. This time he wanted to be sure to tell me that he has the only full dining restaurant in Evergreen Park open untill 9:00 p.m. on weekdays and open seven days a week in Evergreen Park.

I reminded him that the Evergreen Park residents have been very loyal to him and he said, "the seniors are still loyal even in today's economy". He is very appreciative of them, but Nick must be a politician, for he's still looking for the Evergreen Park officials to enjoy a good meal some time.

As you can see the ad below is Evergreen Door and Windows and located in E.P. Our readers have used this company to save on heating costs by replacing their old doors and windows and were very happy with the results.

A little side note: At the Awards presentation for the Grammy's held in Los Angeles was announced that Chicago Symphony Orchestra's recordings on CSO Resound label wins two Grammy Awards. The Grammy Awards were "Best Orchestral Performance" for CSO with Bernard Haitink in Shosakovich's Symphony No. 4 and "Best Engineered Album, Classical for Tradition and Transformations: Sounds of Silk Road Chicago." Congratulations to our world class orchestra.

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Greater Illinois Chapter Presents 2009 "A Toast to Remember" Event

A wine and beer tasting to benefit the more than 500,000 Illinois residents affected by Alzheimer's disease

On Thursday March 19, 2009 the Greater Illinois Chapter will host "A Toast to Remember" at the River East Art Center , 435 East Illinois in Chicago . The Premier Wine Tasting Lounge begins at 5:00 p.m. upstairs and wine and beer tasting begins at 6:00 p.m.

"This year's 'Toast' promises to be the best to date," said Teresa Gruber , Manager of Special Events for the Greater Illinois Chapter. "In honor of its seventh year, 'A Toast To Remember' will feature a variety of wine and beer tasting stations, mouthwatering hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction and raffle.

This year also marks the addition of our exclusive Premier Wine Tasting Lounge which is exclusively sponsored by Binny's Beverage Depot! For access to the Premier Wine Tasting Lounge people can purchase separate tickets and have access to an array of premium wine selections from around the globe."

All proceeds from "A Toast To Remember" will be used to support the Greater Illinois Chapter's programs and services including: a 24/7 Helpline, support groups, educational programs and professional training, care consultation and Medic Alert® + Safe Return®, a program that identifies, locates and returns people with memory impairment who wander and become lost.

Because every 71 seconds someone develops Alzheimer's disease, the need to keep these vital community programs alive is paramount.

To find out more information or purchase tickets to "A Toast To Remember," contact Cara Corbett , Event Specialist, at 847.933.2413 or by e-mail at cara.corbett@alz.org.

You may also visit us online at www.alzheimers-illinois.org/toast. Our premier sponsor is Levin & Perconti Attorneys at Law.

About the Alzheimer's Association - The Alzheimer's Association, the world leader in Alzheimer research and support, is the largest voluntary health organization dedicated to finding prevention methods, treatments and cure for Alzheimer's. Since 1980, the donor-supported, nonprofit Alzheimer's Association has provided reliable information and care consultation; created supportive services for families; increased funding for dementia research; and influenced public policy changes.

The Greater Illinois Chapter serves dozens of counties with offices in Bloomington , Carterville, Chicago , Joliet , Rockford and Springfield .

For more information, call our Helpline at 800- 272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/illinois.

OLCHS Industrial Technology Teacher Ms. Steinecker shares Interior Design curriculum materials with student Jesus Alcantara.

Interior Design Now Offered as Elective Oak Lawn Community High School

Oak Lawn Community High School will offer Interior Design and Space Planning as a one-semester elective to sophomores, juniors, and seniors for the 2009-10 school year. The course explores color, design, and the efficient use of space planning. Learning experiences include extensive study of color for the interiors, analyzing and drawing floor plans, and applying the principles of design to interiors. Further study includes hands on projects that include organizing materials and textiles for interiors. Students will study the proper use of furniture within residential and commercial space and create professional presentation boards.

The course was proposed by Industrial Technology Teacher Mrs. Dana Steinecker and was approved by the school's curriculum committee and board of education in November. The new course is just one of many career-focused electives offered in the industrial technology department. The other electives include electricity, electronics, computer aided drafting/design, computer animation, graphic design, and automotive technology.

Give Children a Fresh Start with Art at the Inaugural Art & Soul Benefit!

Join the Art Therapy Connection for its Art & Soul benefit on Saturday, February 28, 2009 . The Art & Soul benefit will provide the opportunity to help troubled students through the power of art therapy. Taking place at the Chicago Cultural Center, this influential event will include a silent and live auction featuring items from some of Chicago 's premier artists. Cocktails and a light soul food dinner will be served while acclaimed blues act the Blue Lightning Band provides entertainment. Proceeds will benefit the art therapy program that has positively influenced the lives of over 800 children.

WHEN: 7 p.m., Saturday, February 28, 2009

WHERE: Chicago Cultural Center - 78 E. Washington St. , Chicago , IL 60602 COST: $125 per ticket

A Bi-Partisan 'Thank You' from 11 Million SCHIP Kids

"A Good Step Forward in the Fight to Assure Health Care for Every Child"

Washington, DC –An advertising campaign launched today throughout the country to thank more than 75 Members of Congress from both chambers who were instrumental in the passage of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Reauthorization Act. In addition to expressing gratitude for their important work on behalf of uninsured children and their families, the campaign also emphasizes the importance of access to comprehensive health coverage for all Americans. The campaign consists of television ads, grassroots and direct mail. Passage of the bill could provide health care for 11 million children.

The bipartisan, multi-million dollar ad campaign is sponsored by America's Agenda: Health Care for Kids, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) and the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA). Additional ads are planned.

"We are working to assure that every child in America gets the high quality health care he or she needs, regardless of family income or medical condition," said America's Agenda President Doug Dority. "This expansion of SCHIP takes us a good step closer to our goal, but we can't stop here. There are still millions more children in America who won't receive the care they need. We cannot assure that every child gets the good health care they deserve until we guarantee that every person in this country has access to affordable, high quality health care."

"By extending access to health coverage to an additional 4.1 million people who would otherwise be uninsured, the expansion of SCHIP marks important progress toward our shared goal of providing all Americans with access to the high-quality, affordable health care coverage they need," said PhRMA President and CEO Billy Tauzin.

"This is a sorely needed step toward quality health care for all Americans and particularly the most vulnerable among us – our children," said Terry O'Sullivan, general president of LIUNA and a board member of America's Agenda.

In 2008 alone, SCHIP enabled more than 7 million children from working families to gain access to coverage. Last month, Congress voted funding for states to expand their programs to 4 million additional children.

The TV ads running in congressional districts and states across the country thank individual Members of Congress by name and say "...thanks for insuring our kids, and keep fighting to make affordable health care available for everyone."

SCHIP legislation traces its roots to a children's health insurance plan in Massachusetts. Democratic Sen. Ted Kennedy and Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch were co-authors of the SCHIP bill that President Clinton signed into law in 1997. Reauthorization and strengthening of the legislation was vetoed by George Bush, despite bipartisan support, but it passed this year in one of the first votes of the new 111th Congress, and President Obama signed it into law.

For more information, visit our website at www.americasagenda-kidshealth.org.

WHO: Art Therapy Connection (ATC) is a 501(c)(3) and was established in 2002 to provide mental health services to children and teenagers in need. Through the integration of art, ATC's goal is to achieve social, emotional and academic success. ATC works with children to increase concentration levels, increase self-control, enhance interpersonal skills, diffuse feelings of anger and provide children with a method for self-exploration. The program is approved by the Board of Education. For more information contact Lauren Bishop, 312-643-0610, or Jessica Prah, 312-643-2460, jprah@paramountpr.com

MetroSouth Medical Center Offers Heart-Healthy Tips Free Screenings

February may be all about Cupid and Valentine's Day, but it'salso American Heart Month, and a good time to pay closer attention to your heart health. According to the American Heart Association, coronary heart disease is the nation's single leading cause of death. More than 1 million Americans will have a heart attack this year.

"People can reduce their chances of developing heart disease by controlling those factors that put them at greater risk," said Robert Iaffaldano, M.D., Medical Director of the Cardiac Catherization Laboratory at MetroSouth Medical Center. "For example, eating a heart-healthy diet, limiting alcohol, and boosting your good cholesterol, while lowering your bad cholesterol can lessen your chances of developing heart disease."

All this month, MetroSouth Medical Center in Blue Island is offering free screenings and tips to keep your heart healthy.

· **Know your numbers.** People with high blood pressure are at higher risk of stroke and heart attack. It's important to know if you have high blood pressure, and if you do, the steps you can take to live healthier and longer.

MetroSouth Medical Center, located at 12935 South Gregory St. (1 block east of Western), will be providing free blood pressure screenings every Friday during February, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the hospital lobby to help people protect their hearts.

Heart healthy snacks and heart health information will be provided. Participants will qualify for great prizes, including a weekly drawing for a "Red Gift Basket" – complements of Images Boutique Gift Shop.

· **Keep your cholesterol in check.** Knowing good from bad cholesterol is another key to a healthy heart. MetroSouth is holding free screenings and educational events throughout the community. A complete list of February heart-related events can be received at www.MetroSouthmedicalCenter.com.

· **If you smoke, stop.** Smokers are twice as likely to have a heart attack as non-smokers.

MetroSouth Medical Center invites community members to participate in their "Freedom from Smoking" class series in partnership with the Cook County Department of Public Health.

Call Julie Quinn at 708-824-4568 for the current schedule and to register. Classes are free.

· **Manage your weight and watch what you eat.**

If you're overweight, talk with your doctor. Pay attention to your diet – small changes can make big differences. Cut down on salt intake, which can cause high blood pressure, and increase the amount of fruits, vegetables, oily fish, nuts and whole grains.

· **Get moving.** Just like the other muscles in your body, the heart muscle needs exercise to keep fit and pump blood efficiently. Talk with your doctor before you start an exercise routine, but typically 30 minutes of moderate exercise every day will keep your ticker ticking – and help you better manage stress.

To help, MetroSouth Medical Center offers memberships to its Fitness & Lifestyle Cen-ter for just $25 per month for your primary household member and $13 each month for each additional family member. For more Fitness & LifestyleCenter information, please call 708-597-2000, ext 5615.

· **Limit alcohol.** Drinking too much alcohol can damage the heart.

· **Manage Stress.** If you feel overwhelmed, you run the risk of not eating right, smoking or drinking.

MetroSouth Medical Center offers Healthy Heart Exam that includes sub-maximal EKG monitored exercise test, heart disease risk factor assessment, complete Cholesterol profile, blood pressure and body mass composition measures, all for only $30 through March 31.

For an appointment, call the Cardiac Rehabilitation and Fitness & Lifestyle Center at 708-597-2000, ext 5615.

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Seniors outings consists of eating out in Lombard

The Trinity Senior Fellowship Group at 9701 South Brandt in Oak Lawn, IL.is planning an eating adventure outing on Thursday, March 19th at Benihana's in Lombard, IL.

We are going to experience the great art of the performing chefs as they serve us our luncheon and we will be able to select from chicken, beef julienne, shrimp,or scallops.

Each lunch will be served with Salad, Fried rice, vegetable mix, and tea. The entire cost is $29/pp for members and $32/ pp for non members; transportation via the Trinity Bus, tax and tip included.

The deadline is Thursday, March 5th, so if you are interested please call Mickey at 708-422-2355.

A free concert at Trinity College for Black History Month

Celebrating African-American Musical Heritage Palos Heights, Ill. : Trinity Christian College , 6601 W. College Drive , Palos Heights , Illinois , invites you to Celebrating African-American Musical Heritage: A Black History Month Tribute, on Friday, February 27, at 7:30 p.m. in the Grand Lobby of the Ozinga Chapel.

The concert features the Jim Palmore Vocal Chorale with the Trinity Christian College Jazz Band. The Vocal Chorale was founded in 1979 by Jim Palmore. Using extensive vocal harmonies, reaching at times nine parts, the group's unique style of ministry has touched the lives of countless people around Chicagoland.

This concert is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Joanna Wigboldy at 708.239.4874 or joanna.wigboldy@tmty.edu.

Trinity Christian College is a community of Christian scholarship committed to shaping lives and transforming culture. The College, located in Palos Heights , Ill. , has been educating Christian leaders in the liberal arts for nearly 50 years.

Chicago Ridge Library presents adult safety programs

The Chicago Ridge Public Library is having a series of workshops called "Get Smart – Get Safe 2009".

We are working on the series of programs through the Chicago Ridge Fire Department, Risk Watch, and the Chicago Ridge Police Department. The series of workshops will be offered on Thursday nights from 7 pm until 9 pm.

The programs start on February 19, Internet Safety, Parents Cyber Guide presented by Detective Rich Wistocki. His presentation will provide parents the opportunity to become more aware of what goes on "online" including state laws, instant messaging, text messaging, My Space, and Facebook. The presentation is for Adults only.

On February 26, the program is Identity Theft and Firearm Saftey presented by the Chicago Ridge Police Department. Attendees will learn how to protect themselves from Identity Theft and keep your family safe from firearms in your home or homes that your child may visit.

March 5 is Poison Control.

March 12 is Self Defense for Women (fee involved and limited class size)

March 19 is Fire Safety

March 26 is Tornado 101,

And April 2 will be a "Risk Watch Grad-uation" for those who participated in the workshops.

Meet the Candidates Night

Evergreen Park PTA Council will be hosting a "Meet the Candidates Night" for the upcoming April 7, 2009, School Board Elections. Districts #124, #231, MVCC, and Worth Township candidates have been invited to speak.

This informative evening will be held on Thursday, March 12th at 7:00 p.m., in the cafeteria of Evergreen Park Community High School. All registered voters of Evergreen Park are welcome to attend!

Village of Evergreen Park Office of Citizens' Services

OCS assists with LIHEAP (Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program) and SHARE Program (Nicor/ Salvation Army)

LIHEAP

A representative from Ceda is available each Tuesday from 10:00 - 2:00 at the Community Center to process LIHEAP applications. No appointments - (first come first served) **Family size / Income eligibility guidelines** 1 - $1,276.25 2 - $1,711.25 3 - $2,146.25 4 - $2,581.25 Photo ID, Proof of income, original social security card for all household members, gas & electric bills is essential. Call OCS (422-8776) before visiting to make sure a representative is available.

SHARE Program is for NICOR customers through the Evergreen Park Salvation Army Outreach Volunteer Extension Unit. **Family size /Income eligibility guidelines** 1 - $1,301 - $1,733 2 - $1,751 - $2,333 3 - $2,201 - $2,933 4 - $2,651 - $3,533

Applications processed at OCS by appointment only. Proof of income, Nicor bill and photo ID required.

Military News

Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Michael J. Powers participated in the 56th Presidential Inaugur-ation Jan. 20 as part of the largest ever contingent of National Guard members to serve in Washington, D.C.

More than 7,000 Army and Air National Guard members from 31 states and territories provided the 2009 Presidential Inauguration with military working dogs, consequence management planning, and cere-monial, logistics, and med-ical support through the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee.

National Guard members also assisted local authorities with crowd management, traffic control, and emergency services operations.

The Armed Forces Inaugural Committee is established every four years by the Secretary of Defense as a joint service organization to coordinate military ceremonial parti-cipation and support inaugural events.

Powers, is a member of the 1st Battalion, 194th Combined Arms Battalion.

Oak Lawn Library announces their programs

Open Mic Readings

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St. , invites local writers to participate in an Open Mic Short Story and Poetry Reading at 1 p.m. Saturday, February 28.

Bring your best original piece and register at the door to read. There is a five minute time limit for all readers. Members of the community are also welcome to attend and listen in. Coffee and light refreshments will be provided.

View a complete schedule of adult programs at www.oaklawnlibrary.org. For additional information, call 708-422-4990.

###

Opera Lecture: The Abduction from the Seraglio

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St. , will host a free lecture on the opera "The Abduction from the Seraglio" 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 1. At this informative session, a member of the Lyric Opera Lecture Corps will explain the plot, give background on the composer, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and play musical selections.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Lawn Library.

View the complete 2008-2009 opera lecture series at www.oaklawnlibrary.org. For additional information, call 708-422-4990.

###

Free Movie Screening

High School Musical 3: Senior Year

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will host a screening of the 2008 feature film "High School Musical 3: Senior Year" from 2-4 p.m. on Monday, March 2, while local schools are closed for Casimir Pulaski Day. No advance registration is required to watch the movie. Lower level meeting room.

For more information, call 708-422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

###

Bookopoly Played by Grades 4-6

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St. , invites Oak Lawn residents and students of Oak Lawn schools in fourth through sixth grade to participate in the next "Bookopoly" game event on Thursday, March 5 from 4-5 p.m.

In this monthly afterschool program offering, young players read the same book and then come together to divide into teams and compete in a game of trivia questions and physical challenges. The March Bookopoly reading selection is "How to Train Your Dragon" by Cressida Cowell. Advance registration required with the child's library card. Copies of the book are available at the Youth Services Desk. Preference is given to Oak Lawn residents and students of Oak Lawn schools.

For more information about this and other children's programs at the library, call 708-422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

###

Friends of the Library Request Book Sale Donations

The Friends of the Oak Lawn Library are now accepting donations of "gently used" books, magazines and audio visual material to sell at their Ongoing Book Sale located within the Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St .

Patrons may drop off donations on a designated table near the library's Cook Avenue entrance. In addition to books, the Friends welcome CDs, records, audio cassettes, DVDs, VHS tapes and other forms of media. Due to space limitations, the Friends will not accept Readers Digest Condensed Books, encyclopedias and out-of-date text books. Patrons may fill out a form at the library's Reception Booth to receive a tax letter in the mail to acknowledge their donation.

The Friends Ongoing Book Sale provides an ever-changing variety of books, magazines and audio visual material at bargain prices. Hardcover books cost 50 cents each, paperbacks are 25 cents and magazines cost five cents each. Other items are priced as marked. Funds collected by the book sale support library programming and purchases that are beyond the library's budget. Since 1978, the Friends have provided more than $275,000 in gifts to the library. For more information, call 708-422-4990.

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Topnotch presenters feature the Philippines in Chicago's 'Our World Underwater'

Scuba divers attending the 39th Our World Underwater Show, Feb. 20-22 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Chicago, can catch a sneak peak of exotic dive destinations such as the Philippines in a series of seminars and film showing to be presented on Saturday, February 21.

According to Vernie Velarde-Morales, Director of the Philippine Department of Tourism - Chicago, the seminars and film showing on the Philippines will be presented by three distinguished personalities in the dive industry: Lynn Funkhouser, Michael Hoppe, and the legendary Stan Waterman.

A seminar entitled "The Philippines - Simply the Best!" by Lynn Funkhouser, a celebrated underwater photographer, will run at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 21. Meanwhile, "The Wonders of the Philippines" by veteran instructor and travel coordinator Michael Hoppe is another seminar scheduled for 3:15 p.m. on the same day.

Stan Waterman is one of America's pioneer divers. He has worked in the sea with a camera for over fifty years and in that time had received every major award in the diving field, including five Emmys. The Saturday Night Film Festival will feature Waterman's "The Macro World of the Philippines," a film directed from his recent Philippine diving experience, which he calls "A Macro Bonanza."

Consumers and the travel trade may visit the Philippine Pavilion (Booth # 601) for more information.

Inducted into the inaugural Women Divers Hall of Fame, Lynn Funkhouser is an internationally published underwater photographer, author, lecturer, environmentalist, adventuress and leader in dive travel.

Funkhouser has been diving & photographing in the Philippines for two months a year, every year, for 32 years. She has visited and dived in over 250 of the Philippines' 7,107 islands. Funkhouser was also a consultant to the Philippine Wild Reef exhibit at the John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. The $49 million permanent exhibit, which covers 15,000 sq. ft. and took about 8 years to build, showcases the spectacular underwater realm of the Apo Island in the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Ultimate Dive Travel's Michael Hoppe has been working as an instructor and travel coordinator in the dive industry for over 15 years. His travels have taken him throughout the Caribbean, the South Pacific, Micronesia and Asia.

Ultimate Dive Travel is a scuba travel wholesaler located in the Greater Chicagoland area that specializes in scuba diving travel. Ultimate Dive Travel is proud to have one of the highest customer service ratings in the industry and only offers destinations that they have personally visited. This assures their customers that they can feel confident that the person they speak with about their next scuba getaway is speaking from their own personal experiences.

Stan Waterman has been at the forefront of scuba diving since its inception as a recreational sport both in this country and throughout the world. While operating a dive business in the Bahamas, Waterman began to record his dives, most of which were ultimately purchased as television documentaries. After a year-long trip to Tahiti in 1965, his career in television stardom was launched when National Geographic purchased the rights to air his film.

Since that time, Waterman has received numerous honors and awards for his work in television, including five Emmys, four Golden Eagles and two Gold Medals from the UK Underwater Film Festival. He has also been honored with a lifetime Achievement Award from the Miami Expo, the Richard Hopper Day Memorial Medal from the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences and the Reaching Out Award from the Diving Equipment and Marketing Association, and has most recently been named to the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame.

The Discovery Channel produced and broadcast a two-hour biographical special on Waterman, entitled The Man Who Loves Sharks.

Tucked in the very center of the world's coral triangle, the Philippines' tropical 7,107-island geography, and its location on a unique section of the South China Sea, Sulu Sea, Celebes Sea, Philippine Sea and Pacific Seaboard, make the exotic archipelago perfect for scuba divers and other water-based adventurers.

The Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park in Palawan, for example, is a scuba diving Mecca featuring two of the world's oldest and most distinct reef systems, and a major nesting spot for endangered sea turtles as well as the unusual fox-faced rabbitfish.

The second largest contiguous coral reef in the world, Apo Reef features a shallow lagoon with a depth of 6.5 to 32 feet surrounded by mangrove forest, within a ferry ride from Dumaguete or Cebu. Also within easy access is Anilao in Batangas, which is teeming with colorful marine species and dazzling coral formations less than 70 miles from Metro Manila.

The top destination for those who wish to swim with kind-tempered whale sharks (the largest fish on the planet), is Donsol, Sorsogon. Serious wreck seekers should head to Subic in Zambales and Coron Island on the northern tip of Palawan to immerse oneself in sunken World War II treasures including the flight deck of the USS Lexington from which a pivotal U.S. air strike was launched.

Other diving hotspots in the Philippines include Bohol, Cebu (Malapascua), Camiguin, and Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro, where excellent visibility combined with diverse marine life create one of the most picturesque underwater vistas in the Philippines.

"Scuba divers will find in Philippine underwater the most and the rarest of marine animals and corals. No less than the Shedd Aquarium researchers documented that for both fish and coral species, there are more species of fish and corals in the Philippines, than in the Great Barrier Reef and Hawaiian reefs combined," said Director Morales. She further notes that scientists continue to discover new, unclassified marine species in Philippine waters.

There are about a hundred accredited dive centers in the Philippines complete with top-notch guides and well-trained instructors who will take divers to the depths of the ocean floor.

For divers who do not wish to go deep down, there is so much to see and experience at modest depths, making the Philippines perfect for beginners seeking to earn PADI certification, which is also extremely affordable thanks to the country's favorable conversion rate.

For more information on Our World Underwater in Chicago call 708-226-1614, info@ourworldunderwater www.ourworldunderwater.com.

For more information on the Philippines, visit www.experiencephilippines.ph or contact the Philippine Department of Tourism in Chicago at 312-782-2475.

Students to participate in Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition

Students in computer security programs at six Midwest universities and community colleges will compete in a 24-hour Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition on February 27 and 28. The intensive competition is co-hosted by Moraine Valley Community College and the Center for Systems Security and Information Assurance (CSSIA). The event will be held at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region V building, 536 S. Clark St., Chicago.

Moraine Valley, Indiana Tech University, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Illinois State University, Ivy Tech Community College, and DePaul University will each send their top information technology security students to compete. The teams must defend an operational computer network against attacks waged by the "red team," comprised of industry professionals from Secureworks Inc.

The winning team will be invited to participate in the Midwest Regional Collegiate Cyber Defense Exercise March 27-28 hosted at Inver Hills Community College in Minnesota. In addition to the local competition, Elisa Cruz, chief information security officer for the Department of Homeland Security, will be the keynote speaker. "This competition supports information technology security preparedness in a way no other program can," said Erich Spengler, director of CSSIA and professor of Computer Integrated Technologies at Moraine Valley Community College.

"It encourages students and faculty to excel in the latest emerging IT security technologies. It also helps decrease the time it takes graduates to become completely integrated into the commercial sector, which helps build a workforce that will thrive in a globally competitive market." CSSIA at Moraine Valley established the first comprehensive Information Technology Security and Data Assurance Center in the Midwest. This center collects, categorizes, adapts, enhances, standardizes, and evaluates curriculum and offers training programs to community college and university faculty, secondary school faculty, and students across the region.

To learn more about the center, visit www.cssia.org. For information on becoming an event sponsor, call Lou Balek at (708) 974-5543 or e-mail balekl@morainevalley.edu. To learn more about the competition visit http://home.mwccdc.org/il-in/.

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Pheasant Run Resort gives back local firefighters are treated to evening of entertainment

Pheasant Run Resort, the Midwest 's largest entertainment resort, is giving back to those who serve the community every day. The resort is providing hundreds of complimentary tickets to local firefighters for the resort's Country's Hottest Party concert being held at the Pheasant Run Mega Center on February 28th at 7PM. Pheasant Run Resort, located less than an hour from downtown Chicago in charming St. Charles, IL, will be hosting this high energy concert featuring country artists Gretchen Wilson, John Rich (of Big & Rich), Cowboy Troy & Jeffery Steele.

"During these difficult economic times, it seems like all the news you hear and read about is negative & depressing," said Diane Rosenthal, General Manager of Pheasant Run Resort. "So we decided to try and brighten the lives of some of those people who give so much to the community, in this case, the first responders that we all rely on so much," added Rosenthal.

In the past, Pheasant Run has worked with various firefighter and first responder groups, donating services for fund raising and other types of events. In 2007, the resort worked closely with the Gear Up Foundation to host the organization's inaugural international convention during which time fire fighting techniques were taught to firefighters from around the world and retired firefighting gear was collected for donation to third world countries in need.

"Pheasant Run Resort has always sought ways to support worthy causes within our community and with the donation of hundreds of tickets to local first responders for Country's Hottest Party we are trying to make a positive difference", said Rosenthal.

The Country's Hottest Party concert will feature an excellent lineup of well known country artists. Illinois native, Gretchen Wilson, who has enjoyed a meteoric rise in the Country music world, went from talented obscurity to overnight phenom. Her first single, Redneck Woman, spent six weeks on the charts at #1. John Rich, has most recently been known as the one-half of duo Big & Rich, an award-winning songwriter and judge on the Nashville Star as well as host of CMT's hit series, Gone Country. Special opening guest at Country's Hottest Party is the compelling Jeffrey Steele. His unique manner of making a connection with his audience has earned him numerous songwriting accolades such as 2003 Songwriter of the Year and most recently being recognized for more than 20 million airplays. The tall and lanky Cowboy Troy has made his mark with a different blend of Country music. His style, a convergence of country, rap and rock, has given birth to the nickname "hick-hop."

Country music fans can still purchase great seats for Country's Hottest Party and simply need to go online to Ticketmaster.com or call the Pheasant Run box office at 630/584-6342.

Pheasant Run Resort is the Midwest's largest entertainment resort, and offers 473 spacious rooms, several restaurants and dining options, the Mario Tricoci Hair Salon & Spa, productions by Chicago's acclaimed Noble Fool Theatricals, Zanies Comedy Club, 36 holes of championship golf and practice center, three pools, a fitness center and more than 100,000 square feet of meeting space including 45 meeting rooms, two expo centers, four distinct ballrooms, 320-seat tiered amphitheater and state-of-the-art training center. For general information about the resort, call 800.4.PHEASANT or visit www.pheasantrun.com.

Mayor Sexton was featured speaker at the Lions Club

Evergreen Park Mayor Jim Sexton was the featured speaker at a recent meeting of the Lions Club of Evergreen Park. The Mayor gave a complete updating of all activities in the community. The mayor then answered all questions from Lion members.

The mayor was complimented on a job well done in making Evergreen Park a fine place to live. Greeting the Mayor are Lion President Don Sisto, Lion First Vice President Terry Summers, Mayor Sexton and Lion Second Vice President Stan Urbancyzk.

For further info on the Lions club you may visit their web site @ http://lionsclubofevergreenparkil.lionwap.org.

FREEDOM HALL NATHAN MANILOW THEATRE

Sunday, March 8, 2009 3:00 p.m.

Celebrate Women's History Month with the Chenille Sisters. The performance is a blending of three uniquely gifted souls into a musical phenomenon that's more poignant, funny and entertaining than any single performer anywhere - and oh, those exquisite harmonies! What these three women have in common are heavenly voices, a lot of witty wisdom and a passion for connecting with their audiences. But as in a constellation, each Chenille shines her own particular kind of light.

This performance is sponsored by

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410 Lakewood Blvd • Park Forest, IL 60466

Tickets: **708.747.0580**
www.freedomhall.org

Oak Lawn Park District announces special events

• Friday Night Fish Fry— The Oak Lawn Park District's Stony Creek Clubhouse, located at 5850 W. 103rd St., will be hosting a Friday Night Fish Fry every Friday evening from 5 – 8 pm, January 2 through April 10. The all-you-can-eat buffet will feature Dixie crunch white fish, Corona battered cod, vegetables, double baked potato casserole, salad and fresh rolls with butter. Cost for the buffet is $12.99 for adults and $9 for children 10 and under. A shrimp dinner and a baked tilapia dinner will also be available for $13.99. Beverages are extra. Call the Stony Creek Clubhouse at (708) 857-2433.

• Learn to Skate – Learn to Skate program begins the week of February 16. Classes meet at the Oak Lawn Ice Arena (9320 S. Kenton Ave.) on Thursdays (2/19-4/23) and Saturdays. The Learn to Skate program is designed for those ages 3 and up. Adult classes are also available. Fees vary depending on skate level.

• Pre Hockey – A Pre-hockey program beginning the week February 16. This two-stage beginner program is designed to develop basic ice-skating skills and introduces hockey at its simplest form through fun activities. Classes will be held at the Oak Lawn Ice Arena (9320 S. Kenton Ave.) on Wednesdays (2/18-4/22) from 5:40- 6:30 pm and Sundays (2/22 – 4/29) from 12:20 – 1:10 pm. Fee is $144 for Oak Lawn residents and $160 for non-residents.

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Theatre Happenings

by Marijo Doody

Remy Bumppo's Thinktank presents the world premiere run "American Ethnic" featuring Slam Poets Idris Goodwin, Usman Ally and Kelly Zen-Tie Taai, March 12-through March 29 at the downstairs studio of the Greenhouse Theatre Center, located at 2257 N Lincoln Ave. The play combines hip-hop, spoken word and theatre aesthetics to examine the mass media's role in perpetuating cultural norms surrounding race and gender. The production is directed by Remy Bumppo Associate Artistic Nick Sandys and produced by Artistic Associate Shawn Douglas. For tickets call the box office at 773-404-7336.

Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire opens its 2009 season with the mega hit musical Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dream coat on February 18 with previews and the run through May 10, 2009. The Multi-Jeff-Award winner Marc Robin will direct and choreograph this production. Other creative team members are: Aaron Thielen, lead Artistic Director, Michael Mahler, music direction, Cecil Averett, sound design, Greg Isaac, property design, Nancy Missimi, costume design, Tom Ryan set design, Diane Ferry Williams, lighting design and Patti Garwood conductor of the Marriott Theatre with orchestrations by David Sigel.Cast includes Max Quinlan (Joseph), Susan Moniz (Narrator), and Bernie Yvon (Pharaoh) Roger Anderson (Jacob/Potiphar and others.

Performances are Wed at 1pm and 8pm, Thurs and Fri at 8pm, Sat at 4:30 and 8pm and Sun at 1 and 5pm. Tickets are $45. Dinner packages are available. Call the box office at 747-634-0200 or visit online www.marriotttheatre.com.

Theatre at the Center (TAC) presents Leading Ladies a sidesplitting comedy of mistaken identities and harebrained schemes in the Chicago area premiere, running February 19-March 22, 2009 at TAC on 1040 Ridge Road, in Munster Ind. The cast includes Linda Gillum, Dale Benson, Larry Adams, Lolly Trauscht, Kate Bergeron and Jason Wrobleswski. The artistic team for leading ladies is led by director multi Jeff Award winner William Pullinsi with choreography by Stacy Flaster. Performances are Wed-Thurs at 2pm, Fri at 8pm, Sat at 8pm and Sun at 2:30 and some select Thurs at 7:30pm and Sat at 2:30pm. Tickets are $36-$40. To purchase tickets call the box office at 219-836-3255 or Tickets.com at 800-511-1552. For gift tickets and special occasions call 219-836-3255. For more information on Theatre at the Center visit on line at www.theatreatthecenter.org.

Four Olivier Nominations for Steppenwolf

Steppenwolf Theatre Company is proud to announce its critically acclaimed American play "August Olsage County" by Steppenwolf ensemble member Tracy Letts, directed by ensemble member Anna D. Shapiro, is nominated for four Laurence Olivier Awards, including 1. Best New Play-Tracy Letts, 2. Best Company Performance, 3. Best Actress-Deanna Dunigan and 4. Best Set Design-Todd Rosenthal.

The nominations follow the production's recent sold-out run at London's National Theatre from November 21, 2008 to January 21, 2009. Steppenwolf is proud to be among the inaugural nominees in the Best Company Category. The national touring company of

The play "August Olsage County" will begin performances at The Denver Center for the Performing Arts Center in Colorado July 2009.

Artistic Director, Martha Lavey has announced the subscription series for 2009-10 Season. The productions will be as follows: "Fake" a new play by Eric Simonson, "American Buffalo" by David Mamet, "The Brother/Sister Plays" by Tarell Alvin McCraney, "Endgame" by Samuel Beckett and "A Parallelogram" a new play by Bruce Norris. For information on series, call the box office at 312-335-1650.

The Taffetas, a 1950 Girl Group Doo-Wop quartet.

Taffetas knock their socks off

by Annette Dixon

Noble Fool Theatricals present the off Broadway 1950's musical tribute The Taffetas. It's a made up group, but you soon forget it is by the quality of four harmonic voices.

The quartet sisters Kaye, (Danielle Plisz), Peggy, (Courtney Rioux), Cheyl, (Meredith Freyre) and Donna, (Samantha Dubina) do an excellent job imitating the 50's girls with grace and style. Donna puts a little extra in the show with her flirting style but so did one from The McGuire Sisters, The Fontane Sisters, and The Chordettes.

To my surprise, there were quite a few songs that I hardly hear on the good oldies stations.

Some of the songs were: *The Three Bells, Ricochet, Cry, Allegheny Moon, Tennessee Waltz, Old Cape Cod, Music, Music, Music, Sincerely, Ragg Mopp.*

How refreshing it is to see a girls quartet performance that follows in the fantasies of women who want to be successful and do make it in New York.

Do you remember the Chiffons? The Taffetas opened February 4, and playing until April 11th. You can see this play at Pheasant Run Resort, located at 4051 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL. For tickets, call the Pheasant Run Box Office at. 630-584-6342 or www.ticketmaster.com

Noble Fools Theatrical group performs many plays throughout their series. The Pheasant Run Resort has Lucky Pierre's on Boubon Street and Harvest Lounge. which is next to the Mainstage Theatre. Drinks can be purchased during intermission or dinner arrangements can be made prior to the show.

Call Pheasant Run Resort in advance for dinner reservations. The Resort number is 630-443-0438 and ask for Harvest Lounge or Lucky Pierres. For more information regarding Noble Fools Series tickets, call 630-584-6342.

Porchlight Music Theatre presents Pacific Overtures

Porchlight Music Theatre presents the exotic musical Pacific Overtures at Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 West Belmont beginning March 15 and running through May 2, 2009. The ground breaking musical examines the transformation of Japan beginning when US Commodore Matthew Perry brought four black ships into the land of changeless order. Many of the events portrayed are familiar to Japanese students as are US Revolutionary events to US children.

The rarely produced show mixes elements of traditional Japanese theatre with the Broadway musical. It was originally produced in 1976 and was nominated for 10 Tony's.

In preparation for this production Artistic Director L Walter Stearns and Music Director Eugene Dizon traveled to Japan where they experienced the Japanese Kabuki and Noh theatre and visited the actual port where US Admiral Perry sailed into the east. With their Japanese host, actress Haeua Tsuchiya they retraced the legendary march along Admiral Commodore Perry's Avenue. They will share their experiences during post show discussions.

The cast for Pacific Overtures features American and Asian actors including Broadway actor David Rhee, Kent Haina and Danny Bernardo along with others.

Performances are Fri and Sat at 7:45pm and Sun at 2:30pm. Tickets are $37. Senior and student discounts are available.

Call the box office at 773-327-5252. For group tickets call 312-423-6612 or 866-809-9884.

The Southwest Symphony Orchestra

David Crane, Music Director

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Marion Boynes, Director

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Kristin Morris, Director

All Rise . . . . . Mason

Trinity Christian College Gospel Choir,
James Palmore, Director

Introduction and Rondo capriccioso . . . Saint-Saëns

Carl Johnston, violin

El salón México . . . Copland

Sunday, March 8, 2009 - 4 p.m.

Trinity Christian College Ozinga Chapel Auditorium
6601 W. College Drive (Rt. 83) Palos Heights, IL

Adults $20-25 Students $5
Seniors $16-20 Children 12 and under free

Silent Auction to precede the concert beginning at 3:15 p.m. and during intermission

Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door
708-802-0686

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By Mary Ann Hodorowicz, Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator

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Rent Payments Don't Insure Personal Belongings

(NAPSA)-If you're renting an apartment or home for the first time, there's a lot to learn about protecting your personal property. You are responsible for any loss due to theft, fire or wind damage -not the landlord or homeowner.

Here are some quick tips from GEICO about renters insurance to help you protect your belongings and get the coverage that's best for you:

1. Take inventory: Make a list of your belongings. Be precise to assess your coverage needs. Keep the list with you and leave a copy in a secure location such as a safe-deposit box.

2. Compile serial numbers and receipts: Create a logbook with serial numbers and receipts for as many items as possible. This is especially valuable if your items are stolen.

3. Take photographs: Photographs are a great way to help stay organized and demonstrate the general condition of the item.

4. Review the policy: Pay attention to limits, deductibles and other relevant information to make sure the policy reflects the coverage desired. Being overinsured or underinsured means losing money.

5. Fund it: Set aside an emergency fund to cover your deductible amounts in the event of a claim.

6. Update it: Once a year, go through the list and eliminate items you may have replaced, donated or sold, and be sure to add items you have purchased throughout the year.

7. Tag it: Engraving items such as bicycles, sports equipment or other items can help if they are lost or stolen.

8. Renew it: Before renewing your renters insurance policy, make sure your deductibles and replacement value amounts are correct. Pay special attention to any valuables or limitations that may need additional insurance. If you own coin collections, artwork or other items that increase in value, you may need additional coverage.

9. Minimize chances of theft: Leave lights on an automatic timer, store valuables in a place that's not visible from the outside, and never leave an answering machine message that says you are away from home.

The average value of property in a rented dwelling is more than $20,000. Renters insurance can be customized to meet the needs of the policyholder to ensure the correct amount of coverage.

For example, GEICO can help you obtain renters insurance that covers liability protection and personal property outside of the dwelling, including stolen luggage when traveling, stolen merchandise when shopping or even engagement rings that have not yet been given.

To learn more about renters insurance, visit www.geico.com/ getaquote/renters/.

It's renters' responsibility to protect their own belongings such as electronics, furniture and clothes.

Six Ways To Get The Most Money For Your Home

by Zack Wiest, President of PADeals.com

(NAPSA)-Buying and selling homes in today's market may appear overwhelming. However, don't let the poor economy fool you. The housing market can be easy and profitable if you focus on the basics.

Successful selling can be boiled down to six factors: price, presentation, appeal, staging, exposure, and hiring a seasoned real estate agent. Here's a closer look:

Price

In many cases, your home's value will be based only on what your competitors are offering, not its actual worth. You can show a home's value at $300,000 all day, but if everyone in your neighborhood is asking $280,000, then you should list it in that price range.

Presentation

At PADeals.com we believe that presentation is key to increasing the likelihood of selling a property. It's simple really-clean it up, straighten it up and create a clutter-free environment.

Appeal

First impressions are your one and only chance to reel in a potential buyer, so make it count. Before you paint that dining room bubblegum pink, think about what will appeal to the masses. Stay neutral by using whites and tans.

Staging

If no one is currently living in the home, staging is crucial to creating an inviting and attractive atmosphere. Empty rooms make it hard for a potential buyer to visualize themselves living there.

Exposure

In a slow market, massive exposure is critical. Exhaust every available avenue, including MLS and online exposure, print advertising, signage, flyers, directional signs and bulletin boards. Free, easy-to-use Web services such as Craigslist and YouTube let you maximize exposure with a mininized budget. Just buy a cheap, user-friendly camera, shoot footage, plug the camera into your computer and hit upload. Drag and drop that footage into Windows Movie Maker, click "publish movie" and you've got a finished video product. You can shoot and create movies in less than 30 minutes.

Agent

Although you can be your best asset when marketing a property, enlist the help of an expert, preferably a veteran who knows the market. Not all agents are the same. You need a heavy hitter who knows the business and understands what it takes to sell in this climate. Stay away from newbies unless there is overwhelming evidence they can outperform most others.

For more information, visit www.padeals.com.

• Zack Wiest is president of PADeals.com and Homes for Investors.

Wiest

Are you having a St. Patrick's Dinner, or St. Joseph's Sweet Table? Call Linda for Specials Rates for March 3 and March 17, 2009 issue dates. Rates start as low as $15 and up in 17-19 Sububs. Call for details 312-64-8996.

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Achieving A Resolution Of Financial Health

(NAPSA)-According to a survey conducted by Franklin Covey at the end of 2007, the top New Year's resolution for 2008 was to "get out of debt or save money." And given the nation's economic crunch in 2008, it's expected that financial goals will be a high priority in 2009.

The survey also found that 35 percent of Americans break their New Year's resolutions by the end of January. So what can you do to stay on track to get your finances in order (or, at least, in better shape)?

Financial expert Liz Pulliam Weston, author of "Easy Money: How To Simplify Your Finances and Get What You Want Out of Life," offers these tips for saving money and sticking to your New Year's resolution.

- Use cash as much as possible.

Using cash really helps people stay on the straight and narrow. Set aside cash each month to cover variable expenses (such as food, gas and entertainment). When the money is gone, it's gone. No going back to the ATM for more.

- Open a high-yield savings account.

You'll want to keep your money working hard for you, and that means getting a higher rate than you'll find at the typical brick-and-mortar bank. Look for a high-rate, FDIC-insured savings account with no account minimums and no monthly fees, such as FNBO Direct (www.FNBODirect.com/savings).

- Shop smart.

Don't make any online purchases or big offline purchases without first checking to see if an online coupon is available. This can be as simple as a Google search using the word "coupon" and the name of the store. Typically, online coupon searches are worth the effort.

Another place to find valuable savings tips is at www.pyfchal lenge.com. The PYF Challenge follows five people as they compete to save the most money. Along the way, challengers have shared their unique savings strategies, such as:

- When taking a trip, consider flights with one or more stops. It's less convenient than a direct flight, but normally will save you a considerable amount of money.
- Look for ways to make some extra cash. Participate in focus groups, freelance, etc., and put that cash toward expenses outside your monthly budget (e.g., gifts, donations).
- Save money on groceries by taking a list to the grocery store and abiding by a "do not stray from the list" policy. It's amazing how much unneeded stuff you buy otherwise.

Pay yourself first in 2009 and reach your savings goals.

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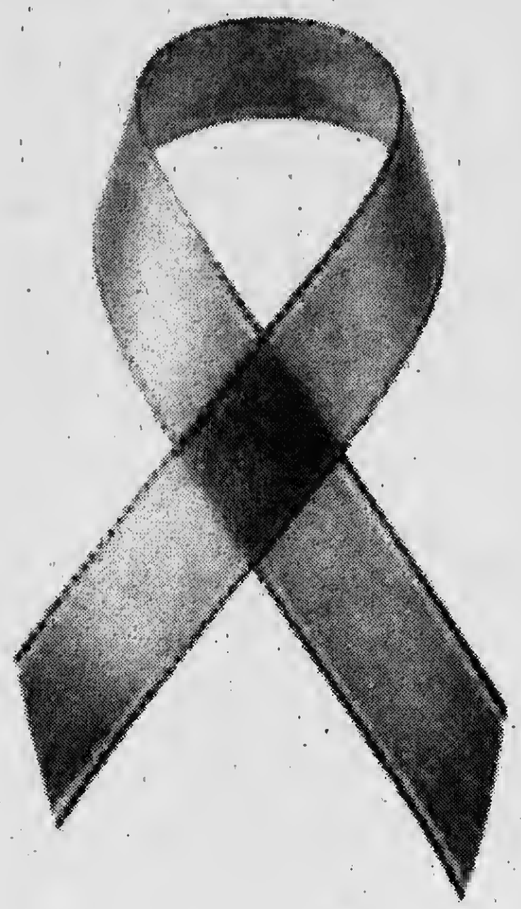

Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program and Family Planning Program at MetroSouth Medical Center

MetroSouth Medical Center, formerly St. Francis Hospital, is proud to announce that we are a Medical Provider for the Research & Education Foundation of the Michael Reese Medical Staff's grant-funded Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP) and the Family Planning Program.

We are now able to offer reproductive health and cancer screenings for uninsured and underinsured women as part of our enhanced women's reproductive health services. Through our bilingual (English/Spanish) and trilingual (English/Mandarin/Cantonese) staff, we also provide breast and cervical cancer awareness outreach education and workshops in the community.

Reproductive health services provided include:

- Physical exam with clinical breast exam and Pap smears
- Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases
- Birth control — all methods are available
- Mammograms for women ages 40 to 60 (under 40 years if clinically indicated)
- Counseling and education including abstinence

The IBCCP and Family Planning Clinic is located in the MetroSouth Pavilion in Suite 4A.
Call 708-489-7940 for additional information or to schedule an appointment.

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MetroSouthMedicalCenter.com

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E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

Far South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 4

February 17, 2009

Senior Citizen Law Enforcement Academy at Orland Township

Orland Township and Cook County Sheriff Thomas J. Dart invite all Township senior citizens that are interested in law enforcement and crime awareness to enroll in the Senior Citizen Law Enforcement Academy to be held from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Mondays, June 1 through July 6, 2009 at the Orland Township Activity Center, 15100 So. 94th Ave. , Orland Park . "We have been working with the Cook County Sheriff's Department for the past few months and are pleased to announce the return of this innovative program for the older adults of our community" stated Supervisor Robert J. Maher.

The Sheriff's Office designed this program to open the lines of communication between senior citizens and law enforcement officials. Participants will gain a better understanding of the responsibilities and duties of law enforcement officials as well as receive advice on personal safety and crime prevention.

Top Sheriff's office staff members will conduct the six-week session Academy . Each speaker provides pertinent information on an array of topics, including crimes against seniors; gang and drug awareness; understanding the role of the sheriff in the criminal justice system; K-9 demonstration; overview of alternative sentencing programs and functions of the Cook County Jail.

All participants will be presented with Certificates of Completion and honored at a graduation ceremony and reception the final day of the program.

The program is offered free of charge to all senior citizens in Orland Township.

Senior citizens interested in registering for the academy should call Orland Township 's Senior Services Coordinator, Kathy Kenyeri at (708) 403-4222.

Orland Park newsletter wins Skyscraper Award

Amber's Covers won firsr in the state in 2008

Mark your calendars for the Acorn Library Book Sale

Acorn Library will be holding it's Spring book sale on Saturday, March 28, 2009.

The Library located at 15624 S. Central Ave. in Oak Forest, IL., will have a large selection of books, audio and visual material. The sale will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with our "Buck a Bag" special from 2:00 to 3:00 pm.

For further information call 708-687-1912

Three village of Orland Park employees receive awards staffers honored for village marketing efforts

Three Village of Orland Park employees were recently honored, earning three statewide awards and one regional honor.

Margie Owens-Klotz, who oversees public relations for the village, was honored by the Illinois Special Events Network at its statewide convention on Feb 3. Owens-Klotz received two of the group's Skyscraper Awards, one for her new design of the village's quarterly residential newsletter and the second for the village's 2008 special events newspaper tab section.

"The village's 28 year old newsletter now has a magazine look with large photos and lots of the same colors as the new website and commuter station," said Owens-Klotz. "The tab section was an all inclusive collection of the upcoming summer events," she added.

Amber Ratcliff, the village's graphic designer, received top honors from the Illinois Park and Recreation Association. Ratcliff's brochure cover series for 2008 won the state award in the IPRA's 2008 Agency Showcase Competition.

Describing her cover series, Ratcliff said, "Everyone in the Recreation Department came up with every possible word to describe all that we do for the community. Once I had all of the words, I repeated them hundreds of times on the page. I then colored the individual letters to create the scene for each cover."

Maureen Wentz, of the village's Recreation and Parks Department, was named Ambassador of the Year by the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce. Wentz represents the village's Recreation and Parks Department with the chamber, promoting the village's Sportsplex at chamber events and programs.

"I've lived in Orland Park for 33 years and it's such an honor to be recognized for my work for the village that I care so very much about," Wentz said.

"We're very proud whenever village employees are honored for their work for Orland Park ," said Mayor Dan McLaughlin. "To have three separate agencies commend the village's marketing efforts is a testament to the talent that we have on staff at the village," the mayor added.

Orland Park PUBLIC FALL 08 TOP PICTURE

The village's newly redesigned newsletter, "The Orland Park Public," was honored with a Skyscraper Award from the Illinois Special Events Network at its early February convention. The publication won top honors for "Best Printed Materials Designed in House."

AMBER'S COVERS BOTTOM PICTURE

The Village of Orland Park Recreation Department won first in state for its 2008 brochure cover series, created by village Graphic Designer Amber Ratcliff. Orland Park's entry was honored by the Illinois Park and Recreation Association.

Orland Township senior safety class

Orland Township is sponsoring a 55 Alive defensive driving class for area drivers who are fifty-five (55) years of age or older, on March 9 and 10, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Orland Township Activity Center, 15100 S. 94th Avenue, Orland Park.

The two-day class includes eight hours of classroom instruction to refine driving skills and develop safety techniques. According to statistics from the Illinois Secretary of State's Office, senior citizens are in fewer accidents than teenage drivers. However, seniors have more accidents per mile driven than any other demographic group.

The cost for the program is $12.00 if you are an AARP member or $14.00 for non-AARP members. Orland Township serves the communities of Orland Park, Orland Hills, the western half of Tinley Park, and the unincorporated area of Orland Township. The Orland Township office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday evenings until 6:00 p.m. To register for the class for more information, call the Orland Township office at (708) 403-4222.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 4

February 17, 2009

Psalms, the Arts, and Worship Symposium

Trinity Christian College, 6601 Palos Heights, Illinois, presents "The Psalms, the Arts, and Worship," featuring keynote speaker Marva Dawn, Ph.D., on Saturday, March 7, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Ozinga Chapel.

The symposium will begin with a time of worship and the keynote address, focusing on the use of the Psalms in the arts as instruments of worship. Participants will then choose from various sectional presentations on the Psalms as incorporated in the visual arts, in music, in prayer, in oral presentation, and in theatre. Dawn will present several meditations on select Psalms at the closing festival of worship.

Presenters include Emily Brink, Betsy Steele Halstead, and Greg Scheer from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship; John Paul from Valparaiso University; and Dayton Castleman, Craig Mattson, and Yudha Thianto from Trinity Christian College.

Registration for the event is required; deadline for registration is February 28. The cost is $30 per person and $10 for students. A group rate for groups of five or more is available at $20 a person. The registration fee includes lunch, provided by the College. For more information or to register, please contact Joanna Wigboldy at 708.239.4874, or visit http://www.trnty.edu/about/ccit.html.

"The Psalms, the Arts, and Worship" is sponsored by the Trinity Christian College Music Department, the Church Connection Initiative at Trinity (CCIT), and the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship.

De La Salle Student Performs on WFMT's "Introductions"

De La Salle Institute proudly announces that Jeremy Joanes, a senior at De La Salle's Institute Campus for Young Men, recently performed on WFMT Radio's "Introductions" program.

"Introductions" is WFMT's newest radio series that celebrates the Chicago region's most talented pre-collegiate classical musicians. During the one-hour show that airs on Saturday mornings from 11:00 am to noon, soloists and small ensembles perform live, while larger bands, orchestras and choruses are recorded at their home locations.

Joanes, who performed his composition entitled "The Last Stretch", plays five instruments (violin, piano, viola, trumpet and guitar). Joanes, who has been performing since the age of 4, excels in the classroom at De La Salle, possessing a 3.394 grade-point average and ranking No. 56 in the 162-member Class of 2009 at De La Salle's Institute Campus for Young Men. Joanes also is a member of the Jazz Band at De La Salle, as well as the cross country and track & field teams.

Joanes, a member of the Hyde Park Junior Symphony, will attend Coe College in Cedar Rapids, IA in the fall. He plans to major in music composition theory.

De La Salle congratulates Joanes on his many achievements and wishes him every future success.

De La Salle Institute is an independent Catholic secondary school rooted in the tradition of Christian Education begun by St. John Baptist de La Salle. Founded in 1889, its mission has been, and is, to foster a desire for excellence in education. Young people from a variety of ethnic and economic backgrounds are given the opportunity to fully develop their abilities so they may be active, contributing members of our complex changing society.

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Linda 312-624-8996

Marist's Makenzie Cody was recently named to the Illinois High School Association Student Advisory Committee on sportsmanship.

Marist girl named advisory committee

Marist High School athletic director Tom Schergen recently announced that sophomore Makenzie Cody has been named to the first ever Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Student Advisory Committee.

Cody (Palos Heights) has been a member of Marist's cheerleading squad for two years, and represented the school in an IHSA sponsored television ad about sportsmanship in the fall of 2008.

Cody was selected from a pool of many student athletes from across the state. The committee will add to the IHSA's efforts to promote and recognize sportsmanship within the state. The program, "Do What's Right!", outlines expectations for schools, teams, players, coaches, fans and communities to adopt.

Cody will attend meetings with the committee and work to implement the program at Marist and beyond.

Saint Xavier University 's WXAV to cover Windy City ThunderBolts

Tune in to 88.3 FM or www.wxav.com to hear baseball action

Chicago (Feb. 11, 2009) Saint Xavier University's student-run radio station WXAV 88.3 FM has signed an agreement with the Windy City ThunderBolts baseball team to broadcast 30 regular season games during the 2009 season. The games also will be available via www.wxav.com.

"This is a spectacular opportunity for our broadcast students to gain real-world experience covering professional sports," said SXU Student Media Director Peter Kreten. "We are thrilled to continue providing the best college radio education in Chicago . Students come to Saint Xavier knowing they will receive fun and challenging opportunities that will serve them later in their chosen fields."

WXAV previously was the official home for Chicago Fire Soccer Weekly, a weekly talk show about Chicago 's soccer team.

Saint Xavier will begin broadcasting games for the ThunderBolts, who were the back-to-back, 2007 and 2008 Frontier League Champions, on Opening Day, May 21 at 7:05pm against the Rockford River Hawks. Saint Xavier student Terry Bonadonna, sports director for WXAV, will be part of the broadcast team.

"We are thrilled to partner with Saint Xavier University to broadcast ThunderBolts games while providing a quality experience for the students associated with WXAV," said ThunderBolts General Manager Steve Tahsler. "The staff at WXAV and administration at Saint Xavier have been tremendous to work with, and their enthusiasm is a major reason why we can return ThunderBolt baseball to the radio. WXAV has many awards for the quality of its programming, and we are proud to associate with such a well-regarded station."

To learn more about the Windy City ThunderBolts and the Frontier League, visit http://www.wcthunderbolts.com/. To learn more about enrolling in any of Saint Xavier University 's programs, visit www.sxu.edu.

Are you having a St. Patrick's Day Dinner or St. Joseph's Day Sweet Table, then call Linda for Special Rates.
Our Advertising rates start as low as $15 in 17-19 towns.
Call for details at 312-624-8996.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

B-MAC EDITION

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 4 February 17, 2009

Time to review the path we are on

The City of Blue Island and the Center for Neighborhood Technology request your input on the direction our path will take for the Blue Island Economic Development Plan

Residents and business leaders are invited to attend two very important public meetings designed to incorporate your thoughts and ideas into the update of our Blue Island Economic Development Plan that you helped craft in 2005.

The development of the Blue Island Economic Development Plan has helped Blue Island

Be a part of Illinois Tomorrow study of downtown traffic

Poise ourselves for a very bright outlook for new housing

Acquire grant money to turn brownfields into tax-generating land

Participate in the development of the Calumet-Sag Trail

TALK IT THROUGH: MAP IT OUT:

Informational Meeting Interactive Planning Exercise

Wednesday, February 25, 2009 Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Both meetings will be from 7:00pm – 9:00pm in our City Hall East Annex, 2434 Vermont Street

Exhibits will be available for review at 6:45pm

Light Refreshments will be Served

To review the BlueIsland Economic Development Plan, visit http://www.blueisland.org/blueislandplan/ or http://www.cnt.org/smart-communities

For more information, contact Mary Poulsen, Marketing Director

City of Blue Island at (708) 396-7035 or via e-mail at mpoulsen@cityofblueisland.org

Digital Camera 101 Learn How to Use Your Digital Camera

Bring your camera and your questions to another informative presentation by award-winning photographer, Glenn Carpenter.

Our presenter will address questions about your camera, but not about computer issues.

This program will be held on Thursday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library. The library is located at 11960 S. Pulaski Road in Alsip.

Contact the Adult Services Department at 708/ 371-5666 exts. 108 or 109 for more information and to register.

Registration is required!

Are you running for Election?

Let the people know how you are going to help their community!

Advertise in our March and April issues.

Ask for Linda to give you the rates.

Call 312-624-8996

Alsip police receive letter of recognition

A letter of recognition was directed toward police investigators Jerald Miller and Todd Gutkowski, for their initiative and keen observation which resulted in a potential criminal act being averted. by Robert Troy, Chief of Police, at the Feb. 2 Alsip Board of Trustees meeting. The letter states that by their self initiated actions, criminal activity in the village was stopped prior to occurring. Police Lieutenant Dave Wolf was congratulated regarding his graduation on January 23 from Northwestern University's school of police staff and command. This is an intensive ten-week instructional program, which prepares law enforcement managers for senior positions within their agency by focusing on organizational and personal development.

Other highlights: the village board approved a police department request to hire one replacement radio communications officer to fill an unexpected vacancy. An ordinance amending an ordinance of the municipal code regarding the 2008-2009 annual appropriations ordnance was approved as well as a request to authorize a contract with the Park District to work on a possible agreement to share the costs of replacing the tennis courts or developing other recreational use at 117th and Karlov. The underground water tank at the site is in need of repair and the existing tennis courts also need to be replaced. This request was also approved at the Jan. 26 committee meeting.

SXU launches new May term with 27 three week courses

Students can earn three credit hours at a 45 percent discount.

Saint Xavier University is launching a new May term between its spring and summer semesters, in which students take advantage of tuition discounts to earn three credit hours in only three weeks.

Twenty-seven courses are being offered during the May term, which will be from Monday, May 11 to Saturday, May 30.

All May term courses feature a 45 percent tuition discount, and many include unique off-campus experiences.

A May term course can help students fulfill program requirements more quickly, lessen their course loads during the normal academic year, or boost their GPAs.

All May term students will be eligible for on-campus housing in Morris Hall at no extra charge. Meals will be available through on-campus venues, but no meal plan is required.

For more information about Saint Xavier's new May term or for scheduling information,visit www.sxu.edu, keyword: Summer.

Crestwood resident is a star

Pictured L-R: the cast of TheatreBAM's "Schoolhouse Rock Live!"—Angie Wendt, Danny Taylor, Sean Christopher Walsh, and Michelle Weissgerber—with "Hairy Scary Bear" and "Interplanet Janet." Photo courtesy TheatreBAM, 2009

Angie Wendt (Dina) currently resides in Crestwood, IL and was born and raised in the Chicago suburbs. She has been performing with Theatrebam Chicago for the past five years in *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* and also performs in their new show "Parker in the Park." Angie is a professional singer and performs as lead vocalist with The Ralph Wilder Orchestra, The Becca Kaufman Orchestra, and Moco Magana. She performs regularly at many popular venues in the area including Fitzgerald's and Abbey Pub.

Schoolhouse Rock Live! caps Centre East's February programming with two performances Feb. 28 at 1 and 3 p.m. Based on the Emmy Award-winning 1970s Saturday morning cartoon series, *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* teaches history, grammar, math and science to a new generation with favorites such as "I'm Just A Bill" and "Lolly, Lolly, Lolly Get Your Adverbs Here" using infectious musical hooks that are addictively entertaining yet educational. Adults, especially those who watched and remember the original telecasts, will enjoy this live show at least as much as the kids, if not more so.

The storyline of *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* centers around Tom, a young teacher, as he nervously anticipates teaching his first class. As he tries to relax with a video game, characters magically emerge from various objects in the room to help him fully prepare to fill the bright young minds of his students with useful and fun information. The story serves as a device to launch 20-or-so musical numbers from the original TV series, each performed live on stage.

Founded in 1979, Centre East is the resident performing arts presenter at the award-winning North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, located at 9501 Skokie Blvd. Centre East presents Schoolhouse Rock Live! Saturday, Feb. 28 at 1 and 3 p.m. Tickets are $18.

Free parking is available. For tickets call the Centre East box office at 847.673.6300 or visit www.centreeast.org.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

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WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 35 Number 16

March 3, 2009

Evergreen Park clamps down on truants

The village board at the Feb. 16 Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting approved an ordinance which creates a truancy section to a chapter of the municipal code. The ordinance applies to all public and private school students. However officials said that truancy has been most prevalent at the high school. Truancy fines will range from $50 to $500. Parents of first time offenders will receive a police warning.

Other highlights: the village board approved an ordinance amending a section of a chapter of the municipal code pertaining to vehicle stickers beginning May 1, 2009. The fee for vehicle stickers will increase from $25 to $30 but senior stickers will remain at $10. A resolution to apply to the county for the Community Development Block Grant Funds for program year 2009 for $290,000 was also approved. The funds are slated to be used for work to be performed at the new community center at 95th and Homan, the former site of the Christian Reform Church.

A fire department request to donate a 1996 Ford Crown Victoria to the Central Stickney Fire Protection District was approved as well as a request from Bleeker's Bowl to sell liquor beginning at 8 a.m for the Southside Irish Parade on Sunday, March 15. A request from the Senior Citizen Council for the use Yukich Field on May 2 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. for "Memories on the Go", a village wide garage sale. A request from the Girls Softball League for their annual parade to be held on Saturday April 25 was also approved.

McAuley Basketball accolades

Mother McAuley Athletic Department is proud to announce that for the second year in a row all 13 members of the Varsity Basketball Team were named to the Girls Catholic Athletic Conference (GCAC) Academic All-Conference Team. The ranking is based on grade point average.

Team members are Caitlin Cody, Lauren Kleist, Sophie Newson and Mary Kate Stasaitis of Beverly; Tara McQuillan of Evergreen Park; Ann Flanagan, Sarah Garcia, Katie Hayes, Kristina Karakas, Meg Murphy, and Meggan Sterk of Oak Lawn; Bridget Balsam of Orland Park; Chelsea Owens of Mt. Greenwood; and Jen Moriarty of Palos Heights.

Photograph Row 1 (L-R): OLCHS State Speech Team members Jacqueline McNaughton, Eric Hoppenrath, Michelle Moyer, Kate Ford Row 2 (L-R): Rosalie Hincks, Claire Ford, Danielle Arnold, Jacquelyn Heidegger, Gabrielle Metzger Row 3 (L-R): Bob Beland, Jason Vasquez, Thomas Murphy, Andrew Green

The Oak Lawn Community High School Speech Team overcame the vigorous Illinois High School Association (IHSA) State Speech Tournament in Belleville, Illinois last weekend. The Spartans took 15th place and landed two individual competitors into the final rounds. Senior Claire Ford took 4th place in Radio Speaking' and Senior Bob Beland was the Runner-up in Prose Reading. The Spartans ended the season on a high note and look forward to another competitive season next year.

The team is under the leadership of Head Coaches Erika Buys and T.J. Kahriman and assistant coaches Billy Denton, Adam Zwirkoski, Frank Biga, Adrienne Thurzo, Grant Suhs, Tom Dzurison, Jamie Quintavalle, and Jamie Dauer.

Southwest Symphony Orchestra presents an array of talent

On Sunday, March 8th the Southwest Symphony Orchestra under the direction of David L. Crane will present Accent on the Community presenting an array of talent on the South Side.

The SSO will spotlight guest artists, three high school choruses, and Trinity Christian College 's own gospel choir.

Ken Austin, Director of Instrumental Music at Trinity Christian College will perform Haydn's Trumpet Concerto. He is currently principal trumpet of the SSO and New Philharmonic in Chicago.

Also featured is the seldom-programmed yet powerful work Testament of Freedom inspired by the writings of Thomas Jefferson, written by Randall Thompson, performed by the Evergreen Park High School Concert Choir under the direction of Melanie Michalak, the Emerson School for the Visual and Performing Arts Concert Choir under the direction of Marion Boynes, and the Richards High School Concert Choir under the direction of Kristin Morris. The Trinity Christian College Gospel Choir will perform Mason's All Rise under the direction of James Palmore.

Carl Johnson, violinist and veteran Chicago performer and educator will perform **Saint-Saëns, *Rondo capriccioso***. Mr. Johnson has taught violin and viola privately for the last 30 years.

The SSO will be conducting a silent auction starting at 3:15 and resuming during the intermission to support the SSO. The concert is located at Trinity Christian College 's Ozinga Auditorium, 6601 West College Dr., Palos Heights.

Concert begins at 4:00 p.m., silent auction 3:15 p.m. on March 8 2009. Ticket prices start at $5.00 for students, $15.00 to $20.00 for seniors, adults $20.00 to $25.00, children under 12 are free. Groups 10 or more $10 per person

Money-saving tips for seniors

by Jason Alderman

Thanks to the rocky economy, most people's retirement savings have taken a beating in the past year. In fact, many folks have been forced to postpone retirement because of their shrinking nest eggs. And, those who've already retired no doubt have noticed that their money doesn't go as far because of increases in housing, food, utilities, prescription drugs and virtually everything else.

Even optimistic economic observers don't anticipate things will improve significantly any time soon, so it's time to tighten the belt. Here are a few areas where retirees – and retirement wannabes – can stretch their dollars and reducing spending:

Pay down debt. List your outstanding credit card and loan balances by interest rate and pay off those with the highest rates first, thereby lowering the amount of interest you pay overall. And always make at least the minimum payment on each account – on time – to prevent credit score damage that could increase your interest rates.

Medical expenses. If your Medicare or other health insurance doesn't cover a specific medical expense, ask the doctor's office about discounts for paying in cash. Also, explore using generic drugs and see if your plan offers discounts for ordering several months' worth of routine medications at once by mail.

Insurance. To lower monthly premiums, consider raising deductable amounts on your auto and homeowner or renter's insurance. Also, rates typically decrease when you reach age 50 or 55, especially if you take a defensive driving course, so be sure to ask.

Government programs. Many government-sponsored benefits, grants and financial aid programs exist to help low-income families, seniors and others pay their bills, including:

·LIHEAP, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which provides grants to help pay utility bills. To see if you qualify, go to · www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap.

·Also, check with your water, garbage collection, telephone and television cable companies to see if they offer discounts for seniors, low-income families or the disabled. Rules vary, but you'll likely be asked to provide proof of age, income or disability status in order to qualify.

·SNAP, the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as food stamps), helps millions of lower-income Americans buy nutritious food each month. Visit · www.fns.usda.gov/snap for qualification requirements.

·Medicaid. Many uninsured people who aren't yet eligible for Medicare can obtain medical coverage through state-administered Medicaid programs. To learn more, visit · www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicaidGenInfo.

·Rental assistance for low-income families is available from several U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development programs as well as other state and local agencies (see ·www.hud.gov/renting/index.cfm for details).

·Go to · www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Benefits.shtml for a comprehensive overview of additional aid programs.

Senior discounts. Before purchasing anything, ask if they offer senior discounts. Always ask at the beginning of the transaction – waiting until you settle the bill may be too late. One precaution, however: Senior rates at airlines, hotels, car rental agencies and other travel-related businesses are not always the cheapest available, so check their websites or ask a phone representative for the lowest available rate before requesting the senior rate.

Check your affiliations. Organizations like AARP, AAA and credit card issuers often offer member discounts on various items and attractions. Check their websites or mailers regularly for new offers.

Ensuring a worry-free retirement requires a lot of planning, both before and after you leave the workplace. Visa's free personal financial management site, Practical Money Skills for Life (www.practicalmoneyskills.com/retirement) contains many tools that can help.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. Sign up for his free monthly e-Newsletter www.practicalmoneyskills.com/newsletter.

Chicago Children's Museum and Target announce Target free first Sundays

Weekend day allows more families to enjoy free admission for Chicago Children's Museum (CCM) will offer free admission to children age 15 and under the first Sunday of every month when Target Free First Sundays kicks off on May 3, 2009. The new program replaces Target Free First Mondays.

"Historically, we've seen more families visiting on Sundays than Mondays," said CCM President and CEO Jennifer Farrington. "Thanks to this fantastic partnership with Target, more children can experience CCM free of charge. In these difficult economic times, it is imperative that CCM's programming surrounding the arts, culture and family literacy be as accessible as possible to all of Chicago's children and families."

"Target strives to make educational and artistic experiences more affordable and accessible to families across the country," said Laysha Ward, president, community relations, Target. "Our continued partnership with Chicago Children's Museum, and the new Target Free First Sundays, gives the Chicago area community the opportunity to experience the wonders of the Museum for free."

Since 2005, the partnership between Target and CCM has helped connect families with fun, hands-on learning. Target Free First Sundays will offer visitors a wider array of programming surrounding arts, educational and culture.

Museum hours on Target Free First Sundays will be 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday hours will resume as 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. For a complete list of museum hours, visit CCM's web site www.chicagochildrensmuseum.org

NAM announces agenda for 111th Congress emphasizes economic recovery job creation

Manufacturing Is Key Driver Of Economic Recovery

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) today released its Legislative Agenda for Economic Recovery and Job Creation.

The NAM agenda focuses on legislative priorities that manufacturers have identified as key to economic recovery. "The 111th Congress is meeting in a time of tremendous economic challenges," said NAM President and Chief Executive Officer John Engler.

"Our nation faces a recession that has spread worldwide, sending a shock wave through the U.S. manufacturing sector. "The NAM believes that Congress, the Obama Administration and the private sector are in a strong position to respond in a positive and effective way," Engler said.

"Manufacturers employ nearly 13 million workers and contribute more than $1.6 trillion to the U.S. economy each year. Manufacturing is the largest driver of economic growth and accounts for the lion's share of private sector research and development."

However, Engler added, the vitality of U.S. manufacturing cannot be taken for granted.

"It requires hard work and smart policies to keep U.S. manufacturing competitive in the global marketplace.

The basic challenge is to retain and create jobs. A strong manufacturing sector is vital to meeting this challenge.

"On energy and taxes, health care and education, innovation and infrastructure, labor and trade, we need policies that encourage investment and remove the barriers to competition," Engler said.

"Global competition will only get more vigorous, so manufacturers in America must always look ahead.

We need to lay the groundwork now so we will be in a strengthened position to expand when the economy begins to grow again."

The full text of the NAM Agenda for Economic Recovery and Job Creation can be found at: http://www.nam.org/agenda.

The National Association of Manufacturers is the nation's largest industrial trade association, representing small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the NAM has 11 additional offices across the country.

Visit the NAM's web site at www.nam.org for more information about manufacturing and the economy.

Military News

Army National Guard Spec. Shawn M. Walsh is completing training to deploy to Afghanistan with the Illinois Army National Guard's 33rd Infantry Brigade Team in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

·The brigade will be the backbone of Task Force Phoenix VIII and its mission of training and mentoring the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police. Thirty units in the brigade will mobilize for up to a year, with most of the time spent in Afghanistan.

More than 2,700 soldiers in the Urbana-based brigade completed many of the 130 soldier training tasks in Illinois before moving to Fort Bragg, N.C., for final certification before deployment.

The mobilization for Task Force Phoenix VIII will be the largest call-up of the Illinois Army National Guard since World War II. Walsh is a unit supply specialist with the 634th Force Protection Alpha, Fort Bragg, Fayetteville, N.C. He has served in the military for two years. He is the son of Wendy M. Walsh, and Michael T. Walsh, both of Tinley Park, Ill.

The specialist is a 2005 graduate of Providence Catholic High School, New Lenox, Ill.

Are you interested in our 2009 Media Kit. Call Linda at 312-624-8996 or Fax 708-221-6663 or Email vvnew@sbcglobal.net

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

OAK LAWN SENIOR HAPPENINGS

Monday, March 16th at 10 a.m. Alex Babiy, a classically educated professional singer will entertain. Alex can handle most styles, from sophisticated jazzand sweet oldies to various dance styles.

Also on Monday the 16th a representative from Beltone Hearing Center will discuss the newest technology for the hearing impaired. Beltone is a global leader in hearing aids, hearing devices and hearing health care. Their presentation begins at 11:30 a.m.

On the last Thursday of every month a box lunch is planned here at the Senior Center. The success of the day is all thanks to local businesses who offer to sponsor the program. By doing so they make this day affordable to Oak Lawn seniors. This month Airway Housing Specialist located at 9001 South Cicero will sponsor. This community is safe, clean, attractive and a desirable place to live. The cost to the seniois $3.50 and tickets may be purchased at the Senior Center. Seatingis limited.

For further details on any of the activities you may call 499-0240 or stop by the Center, 5330 West 95 Street, for a calendar of events.

SENIOR RIDE FREE PERMIT

If you reside in the RTA Service Region and are 65 years of age or older, you are eligible for a Senior Ride Free Permit.

This permit will allow seniors to free rides on CTA, Pace and Metra fixed bus routes and rail service. All seniors eligible and interested in a free ride permit must apply before April 1, 2009.

After April 1st people with the Senior Reduced Fare Permit will be required to pay a reduced fare. You may apply for the Ride Free Permit at the Oak Lawn Senior Center, 5330 West 95 Street. An application must be completed and a copy of your Driver's License, State I.D. or passport will be taken. Photos are also available. For any further information you may call 708-499-0240.

LOOKING FOR OAK LAWN CENTURIONS

In celebration of the Village of Oak Lawn's 100 Year Anniversary, the Village would like to give special recognition to our own centurions. We would love to hear their stories. If you know of an Oak Lawn resident who is 100 years old or older, please contact the Mayor's office at 708-499-7740 or the Senior Center at 708-499-0240.

Evergreen Park new from the Fire Department

The week of March 1st through March 7th, 2009 has been designated as National Severe Weather Preparedness Week.

The Village of Evergreen Park encourages families to plan in advance for actions to be taken in the event of severe weather. Know the terms used to describe severe storm threats.

A Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Watch means Severe Thunderstorms or Tornadoes are possible in our area. Residents should remain alert for the development of severe weather.

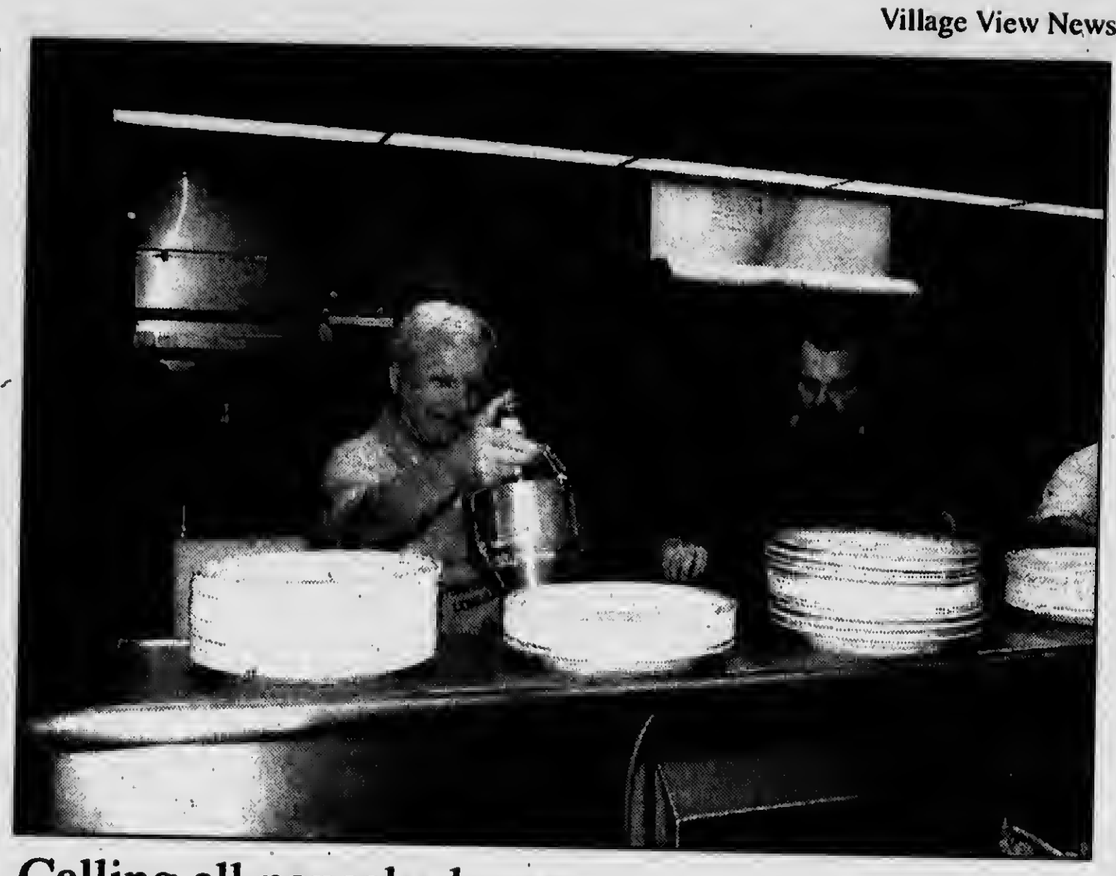
A Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Warning means Severe Thunderstorms or Tornadoes are occurring in our area. In the event of a Warning residents should take cover immediately.

The Village Emergency Storm Warning sirens will be activated in the event a Tornado is reported within 20 miles of the Village. When the Emergency Siren is activated residents should immediately take cover in the lowest level of their homes. If there is no basement, go to an inner hallway or small inner room with no windows.

The sirens are activated for Tornado warnings only, no "all clear"signal will be sounded, and this is for resident's protection in the event another storm approaches. Storm safety experts advise citizens to refrain from using the telephone, computer equipment or electrical devices during thunderstorms.

Call 911 to report a funnel cloud, tornado sighting or other emergency situations. The Village of Evergreen Park maintains Emergency Sirens in the following locations, 94th & Hamlin Av., 89th & California Av. and 99th pl. & the Grand Trunk Railroad Tracks.

Area residents are requested to report any siren not activating for the monthly test to the Fire Department at 708-422-2148



Calling all pancake lovers

The Evergreen Park Lions Pancake Breakfast committee worked to finalize plans for this year's Pancake Breakfast on March 14, 2009. It will be held at the Evergreen Park Community High School on 99th and Kedzie from 6 AM to noon. Ticket prices are $4.00 for adults and $2.00 for kids under 12. This year's breakfast will also feature the Lions of Illinois Foundation hearing mobile providing free hearing tests to the public from 7 AM to Noon. Pictured above from a previous breakfast is Lion Vice President Terry Summers dropping the pancake batter, Volunteer Paul Pratt flipping the cakes and in the background Lion Co-Chair Rich Naylor is mixing up the next batch.

The club is looking for some volunteers to help with this event, if you can help call Lion Don @ 708-425-8172.

For further info on the Lions club you may visit their web site @ http://lionsclubofevergreenparkil.lionwap.org.

Aglow announces their March meeting

The Oak Lawn Chapter of Aglow International will meet on Thursday, March 12, 2009 at Mama Luigi's Restaurant, 7500 S. Harlem, Bridgeview, Illinois.

Minster Frank Coleman, is the returning speaker for March and is well-known to this lighthouse because he is our Advisor. He is a Chicago Firefighter and has been married to his wife Linda for over 30 years: They have two grown children.

Rev. Frank has been in ministry for over 20 years, serving as Sunday School Teacher, Praise Team and Trustee Board member, Men's Ministry Leader, Missions Ministry Facilitator, and wherever else he was needed.

He is the founder of "Path of Life Ministries, a Web Ministry that helps men. Min. Frank also publishes the weekly e-mail newsletter, "Connections" that has announcements and other information for their spiritual growth. His current interest is studying church history and teaching early church growth and development.

Come for an enlightening evening and bring a friend!

Dinner tickets are $13.00, available at 6:30PM at the door. Dinner is served promptly at 7:00PM. Reservations are required by March 10th.

For additional information and reservations please call June at (708) 424-1656.

Aglow International is an inter-denominational organization of renewed Christian women, with over 2,600 fellowships which regularly hold meetings, retreats, and conferences on six continents. Aglow holds bible studies and publishes leadership training materials, books, and tracts, reaching out to women in prisons and hospitals, teenage girls, with intercessory prayer groups, and support groups.

Support your local Scouts and for a Spaghetti Dinner

Boy Scout Troop 652 and Cub Scout Pack 3652 will be having their Annual Spaghetti Dinner on March 7th at Oak Lawn Community Church, 9000 S. Ridgeland from 3-8pm. There will be a raffle and you don't even have to be present. The costs are: Adults are $6.00, Seniors are $4.00, Children 4-12 are $4.00, Eagle Scouts and Under 4 are FREE.

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Orland Township Assessor hosts meeting with Cook CountyTownship Assessors

Rich Kelly, Assessor of Orland Township hosted a meeting with other Cook County Township Assessors to discuss a proposal that would limit property tax increases after reassessment. For the last two reassessments, the Illinois legislature has sought to limit tax increases after reassessment by approving the 7% assessment cap. But the 7% assessment cap met with a lot of opposition the last time it was renewed, and at the present juncture prospects for a third renewal of the program do not appear to be strong.

Assessor Kelly believes an alternative proposal can accomplish the goal of limiting large post-reassessment tax increases while responding to the objections of those who opposed the 7% cap.

Senior Trivia Challenge

The Louis S. Viverito Senior Center located at 7745 S. Leamington in Burbank will be hosting a Game Show on Friday, March 13, 2009 sponsored by AT&T.

The interactive trivia blitz presented by Game Show Gurus will feature TV like game show contestant booths, digital scoring, theme music, and tons of trivia questions.

Every participant will receive a prize! Teams of two to three individuals will be selected from the audience to play each round. Join us for the game show and lunch. The party begins at 9:30 A.M. Lunch will be served at 11:30 A.M. To register for the party please call (708) 636-8850.

Best of Local Business

The Bridgeview Public Library has been selected for the 2008 Best of Bridgeview Award in the Libraries category by the U.S. Local Business Association.

The USLBA "Best of Local Business" Award Program recognizes outstanding local businesses throughout the country. Each year, the USLBA identifies companies that they believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category.

These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and community. Various sources of information were gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category.

The 2008 USLBA Award Program focused on quality, not quantity. Winners are determined based on the information gathered both internally by the USLBA and data provided by third parties. U.S. Local Business Association (USLBA) is a Washington D.C. based organization funded by local businesses operating in towns, large and small, across America.

The purpose of USLBA is to promote local business through public relations, marketing and advertising.

Oak Lawn Community Church will host Elvis

The Oak Lawn Community Church will host a luncheon on Sunday, March 15, 2009 at 9000 S. Ridgeland, Oak Lawn, Illinois at noon.

"Elvis" will be "in the house" when well renowned Bob West pays a visit to Oak Lawn Community Church on March 15th.

The luncheon starts at noon and "Elvis" will make his appearance at 1pm. There will be raffles to raise money for the church and other activities. Everyone who brings their Elvis memorabilia or clothing will go into a special raffle.

Lunch tickets are $3.00, or a dish to pass. A free will offering will be taken to help Mr. West with his expenses and compensate him for his time.

Bring a friend for a "star studded" afternoon of good food, fun, activities and entertainment.

For all the Bob West fans who know him, he will be at the Oak Lawn Community Church on Sunday, March 15, at 1:00 p.m. Support your friend!

Evergreen Park Community High School Senior Receives President's Volunteer Service Award

Joana Prempeh of Evergreen Park, IL has been honored for her exemplary volunteer service with a President's Volunteer Service Award.

The award, which recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and their country, was presented by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program on behalf of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. Prempeh participated in the Spirit of the Community program this year as a representative of Evergreen Park Community High School where she is a student.

Prempeh earned her award by volunteering countless hours for her church this past year.

Drink Vib Be Happy

Banish Stress & Make Your World A Better Place with New Functional Beverages

Hopelessness. Anxiety. Burnout. These are concepts everyone can empathize with in these uncertain times. Happiness is taken for granted, as is the relaxation that's a byproduct of stress-relief. Stress is not just a problem – it's the problem. Everyone longs for an escape from their problems; a vacation; a place where they can go to be happy; a place from where they return and share their happiness with everyone around them. ViB (pronounced vibe) is your vacation in a bottle.

Available nationwide in February 2009 from ViB Holdings LLC, ViBä CHILL-N is a new lightly-carbonated, refreshing pomegranate-berry flavored functional beverage that promises to take you away form the daily hustle and bustle with a combination of vitamins and amino acids. ViB is your escape or vacation, wherever that may be. ViB is your relaxation. ViB is your solution to stress and anxiety. ViB is that happy, feel good vibe. . . in a bottle.

ViB is unlike any other beverage available. The new ViB functional beverage contains no caffeine, no sodium, is low in calories, carbohydrates and sugar, and comes loaded with Vitamins B3, B6 and B12 and contains the amino acids, L-theanine and L-threonine. This unique blend helps to cause a natural change in body chemistry that enhances focus, rejuvenates, relaxes without causing drowsiness, enhances clarity, and positively affects mood while not sacrificing for taste. However, consumers should take caution when drinking ViB because extreme happiness may occur.

"ViB was designed to make you feel good," says Travis Hollman, CEO of ViB. Holdings. "When stress and depression are at extreme levels, ViB can help reduce them naturally and help you feel like you're on vacation to set your worries aside. It heightens your focus but relaxes the mind and body making you feel – happy."

Following an extremely successful test market in Texas, ViB will now be available at grocery and convenience stores.

ViB has also become a popular mixer at bars where bartenders are mixing it with vodka to craft new refreshing martini and mojito concoctions like the ViB-rator and Good ViBrations.

But ViB isn't just for adults. Teens are also chillin' to this new beverage as an alternative to highly-caffeinated energy drinks that can increase agitation. Parents appreciate that it has less sugar and carbonation than high-calorie sodas. And, recent studies are finding that it can even reduce hyperactivity in children with ADHD and autism.

So, drink ViB and share your new found happiness with others at www.drinkvib.com.

About ViB Holdings LLC

Based in Dallas, TX, ViB Holdings LLC was founded by John delaValdene and Travis Hollman who have a proven track record in building successful businesses, including:

Fitness Factory, Hollman Inc., Native Tan, Exposure Indoor, Shatter Sports, BigHeadz Entertainment, and the Marshmallow Fun Company. Hollman and Valdene launched ViB with the idea of not selling just a liquid but rather a lifestyle and a sensation.

Some of ViB's investors include high profile celebrities and athletes such as actor and musician Nick Lachey, Phoenix Suns' Forward Amare Stoudemire, Dallas Stars' Forward Mike Modano, Cowboys' Tight End Jason Witten, Mavericks' President Donnie Nelson, and Marco Riviera-Green Bay Packer Great.

For more information about ViB, CHILL-N and ViB Holdings LLC, visit www.drinkvib.com

Palos Park Senior Club meetings

The next meeting of the new Palos Park Senior Club will be at noon, on Monday, March 9, 2009. Doors open at 11:30 at the Recreation Center, 8901 West 123rd Street, Palos Park. This will be our third meeting.

We invite all senior residents to attend. We will begin with a corned beef lunch.

Please call (708) 480-4103, to order lunch. Speakers from Trinity College and ADT will share information especially focused towards seniors. Try to join us. You will meet many friends and make new onces as well.

Soon will be Garage Sales, Flea Markets, or you might just have something for sale, or for rent. Call for rates, at 312-624-8996.

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Senior Menu at Both Locations 1pm to 4pm

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Wed., Fri., & Sat
BBQ Rib Special
$9.95

SPECIAL NOT VALID ON HOLIDAYS OR WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS

Hometown-Murray's VFW is having the St. Patrick's day dinner

Grab your Shillelagh and come out to Hometown-Murray VFW, 9092 Main St ,Hometown, IL, Saturday, March 14th. 4pm till 8pm for 'Deb's 'homemade Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner.

The dinner includes, Potatoes, Carrots, Bread/ Butter- $7.00 per person, or the Corned Beef Sandwich Platter, w/chips and Pickle -$5.00 per person.

Come early, unlike a Leprechaun's gold, quantities are limited.

Dine in or Carry Out-call 708-422-9800 after 5pm for more info

Meet some authors

The Chicago Ridge Public Library, 10400 S. Oxford, is hosting authors, Julie Hyzy, a Tinley Park resident, and Michael A. Black, a Matteson Police Officer, on Monday, March 16th at 7:00 p.m.

These local authors teamed up their respective characters, Black with private eye Ron Shade and Hyzy with amateur sleuth, Alex St. James, in the recently released mystery ***Dead Ringer***.

Join us to hear Julie and Michael speak about their collaborative effort and the craft of writing.

Books will be available for purchase and autographs. Register at the library or by calling 423-7753.

Something special for everyone

IRISH MASS to be held at St. Fabian's Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 7pm (preludes begin)

St. Fabian's, 83rd & Oketo in Bridgeview (2 blocks west of Harlem) will be hosting their Ninth Annual Irish Mass on March 10th, with ministers drawn from thruout Chicagoland. The Presider: Fr. John Trout, Assoc. Pastor of Queen of All Saints Church. Music will be provided by Dennis J. Newman, Music Director of St. Fabian's and of LifeSong Liturgical Ensemble, along with cantors Ann Klochan, Jim Poynton and other musicians from St. Fabian's; plus NW Indiana Symphony mezzo Becky Scherer; gifted flautist & Archdiocesan Music Director, Anna Belle O'Shea; and local bagpiper (& Music Director of the Emerald Society Pipes & Drums) Bruce Quintos.

The evening begins with Irish preludes at 7pm, with the Mass itself at 7:30pm. Refreshments will follow at 8:45pm in the parish hall, accompanied by the lively steps of the Weber Irish Dancers, along with raffle and prizes (among them, tickets to professional sports, and a pair of round-trip tickets on Southwest Airlines).

All profits from the evening will go to benefit Oak Lawn's new Ronald McDonald House, providing lodging for the families of seriously ill children being treated at Advocate Hope Children's Hospital.

St. Fabian's invites all who love Irish music to come and celebrate "A Candle in the Window—the Irish Way of Welcome."

Curtains to be enjoyed by seniors

Senior Event On Thursday, April 16, 2009, The Trinity Senior Fellowship Group located at 97th & Brandt in Oak Lawn is going to the Drury Lane Theatre via the Trinity Bus. We will be enjoying a hilarious who done it play of murder, mayhem and mystery called "Curtains". It's your choice of either Tilapia or Roast Sirloin of Beef for lunch. The cost is $45.00/pp for Non-Members, tax, tip and transportation included. The deadline date is Thursday, March 24, 2009. The bus will leave at 10.00 A.M.. Please call Mickey at 708-422-2355 for further information or for your reservation. Don't Miss Out.

Open Mic Night at Palos Park Library

Open Mic Night is back at the Palos Park Public Library on Wednesday, March 4th at 7:00 pm.

This program is free and opened to all writers, poets, and fans of the written word. The mic is opened to readers for the first half of the program followed by our feature reader, poet and editor of After Hours magazine, Al DeGenova.

Sign up for the mic begins at 7:00 pm. Call the library for any questions at (708) 448-1530. The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd. in Palos Park .

Boy Scouts will celebrate Irish Dinner

Come celebrate a bit of the Irish ..... Boy Scout Troop 659 4th Annual Corned Beef Dinner Fundraiser Saturday, March 14th 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church 8607 South Narragansett Cost $7.00

Includes hearty sandwich, chips, coleslaw, pickles, dessert and a drink Tickets are available at the church office or at the door.

Front row: Mr. McGee, Bob Reynolds, Phil Karczewski, Eben Lancerio, and Shannon Ott. Back Row: Cody Williams, Mr. McNamara, Mr. Mayer

OLCHS Receives Grant for Safe Driving

Oak Lawn Community High School (OLCHS) received a $2000 grant from the Secretary of State, Ford Motor Company, and Allstate to promote safe driving. The grant is specifically aimed at promoting seat belt use.

Both nationally and in Illinois, teen drivers make up approximately 7 percent of the driving population, but are involved in roughly 20 percent of traffic crashes and more than 12 percent of traffic fatalities. While Illinois has had strong success in reducing the overall number of fatalities by 200 a year since 2003, the number of teen fatalities has remained roughly the same. In 2005 in Illinois, there were 151 fatal crashes that involved drivers between the ages of 16 and 19.

Operation Teen Safe Driving is a statewide initiative that is modeled on the nationally recognized Ford Driving Skills for Life high school based pilot project implemented in 2005 by Ford, the Governors Highway Safety Association, IDOT, the Illinois State Police, and local partners that halted an epidemic of 15 teen fatalities in Tazewell County in 2005 and 2006. It is also designed to build on the momentum from a series of new laws aimed at teen drivers, stemming from Secretary of State White's Teen Driving Task Force that give Illinois some of the most stringent teen driving laws in the nation.

Fitness & Health Expo coming to South Suburban College

The South Suburban College Fitness Center and South Suburban Overall Body Fitness Club are hosting their third annual Fitness & Health Expo on Tuesday, April 14th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The public is welcome to come and meet the community's fitness and health professionals. Admission is free.

The Expo will feature free health screenings, and demonstrations will take place from 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon on step aerobics, martial arts, belly dancing. There will be guest speakers on nutrition, fitness, and health from 12 noon – 2 p.m.

The Expo will additionally serve as a Fitness Center Open House, with SSC Fitness Program staff on hand to answer questions about classes, memberships, and fitness, and nutrition.

SSC's Fitness Professional Program prepares students for careers in fitness and offers certification as a fitness specialist or a fitness assistant, along with an Associate Degree curriculum for fitness professionals. Students get their training at the college's own Fitness Center.

The SSC Fitness Center also offers memberships to residents of the community who do not attend the college for just $66 and senior citizens $33.

For more information about attending the Fitness & Health Expo or about booth rental, please call 708-596-2000 x2577.

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Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart to give law enforcement insider's view

2nd 2009 Breakfast with the Experts hosted by Saint Xavier University and BAPA

Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart will address topics ranging from forced evictions to dog fighting rings at 2009's second Breakfast with the Experts event, sponsored by Saint Xavier University and the Beverly Area Planning Association.

This intriguing discussion begins at 7:45 a.m., Thursday, March 12 in the Butler Reception Room of Saint Xavier's Warde Academic Center, 3700 W. 103rd St.

Tickets are $20 for the general public and $15 for BAPA Members. Space is limited and reservations are required. For more information or to buy tickets, please contact Marcia Walsh at 773-233-3100 or mwalsh@bapa.org, or visit www.bapa.org.

Dart will discuss life at the Cook County Jail—the nation's largest, holding 10,000 people—and methods of reducing inmate recidivism.

He also will detail how the County's vice unit combats Internet facilitated sex industry, including the trafficking of teenage girls, and review the animal crimes unit's recent success in breaking up dog fighting operations.

Finally, Dart will describe his role as the first sheriff in the nation to refuse to conduct foreclosure evictions until new rules were created to protect homeowners and tenants.

"This is a unique opportunity to get an insider's view of Cook County law enforcement," said SXU Director of Community and Government Relations Maureen Connor-Kelly. "These are extremely interesting topics, especially for local business and civic leaders."

Breakfast with the Experts brings notable business, community and civic leaders to the south side to share insights, experience and industry knowledge with local business people.

The breakfasts are interactive and designed to engage all participants through networking, keynote address, and a question-and-answer period.

Oak Lawn Library Programs

Library Exhibits Local Artist

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will exhibit a large collection of paintings, photographs and sculpture by Alsip resident Ted R. Lownik in their public art gallery throughout the month of March 2009.

Lownik's career as a professional fine artist spans over 50 years, during which time he has participated in 1,396 regional, national and international art shows, and won numerous prestigious awards. This is Lownik's first gallery showing since his open-heart by-pass surgery in 2004. Members of the community are invited to comment on his work and enter a drawing for an unframed print, which will be drawn at the end of the exhibit.

Artists interested in participating in future exhibitions can pick up an application at the library's Reception Booth. For more information, contact Linda Olsen, public relations officer, 7084224990.

Free Child ID Program

Officers from the Oak Lawn Police Department will be on hand to create free Child IDs at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., Saturday, March 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. These two-page reports include a color photo, fingerprints and additional information that could assist authorities with locating children in an emergency. No advance registration required.

For more information, call the library's Youth Services Department, 708-422-4990.

Kids "Read to Rover

Children ages seven and up are invited to participate in the next "Read to Rover" event on Saturday, March 14 at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St.

Registered therapy dogs from the Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy of Chicago will be on-hand from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to serve as attentive, nonjudgmental, one-on-one listeners for young readers who sign up for a 15-minute time slot. Advance registration is required at the Youth Services Desk with the child's library card. Preference is given to Oak Lawn residents and students of Oak Lawn schools. This program is also open to special needs children.

For more information about this and other children's programs at the library, call 708-422-4990 or www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

Free Family Concert

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will host a free concert for families on Sunday, March 15 from 34 p.m. Erin Flynn and Scott Besaw of The Old Town School of Folk Music will perform a lively, interactive concert that will have patrons of all ages dancing and singing about spring. No advance registration is required. Lower level meeting room.

For more information about this and other youth activities, call 708-422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

Organic Vegetable Gardening

Master Gardeners Bill and Jennifer Tobin will present a free informational lecture on organic vegetable gardening 7 p.m. Monday, March 16 at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St. Participants learn how to tend their soil and keep pests away without the use of chemicals and harmful insecticides. Bill Tobin completed the Master Garden program at Purdue University and his wife Jennifer received her accreditation at the University of Illinois Extension.

View a complete listing of adult programs at www.oaklawnlibrary.org. For additional information, call 708-422-4990.

Library Hosts Science Club

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., invites Oak Lawn residents and students of Oak Lawn schools in third through fifth grade to join their monthly Science Club. On Tuesday, March 17 from 45 p.m., members will participate in activities that explore the principles of physics.

Advance registration is required with the child's library card. Participants sign up for each month separately. Preference is given to Oak Lawn residents and students of Oak Lawn schools.

More than 100 public and private institutions are coming together for one year to present "Science Chicago," the world's largest celebration of science, which runs through August 2009. For a list of public events offered around Chicagoland, visit www.sciencechicago.com.

For more information about this and other children's programs at the library, call 708-422-4990 www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

Letter to Publisher

I read the latest column in the February 16th issue and with interest I noted the notation of Evergreen Window and Door being in Evergreen Park and having a big presence in our community. I have used their service for both windows and doors in the last two years.

I drove down the blocks of Troy and Albany from 96 to 98th Streets for the fun of it. I was counting the number of doors that were the same as mine.

I was beeped by one of our finest police cars to move over, which I did. I assume he was on the way to the high school. When I arrived in front of my house, the count was 19 doors that were the same as mine. I can only assume that Evergreen Window and Door Company put in all the doors, since they were the same pattern. It is good to support the neigh-borhood businesses as they help our community grow.

MJD, an Evergreen Park resident near the high school.

Registration for all classes will start March 2

FAMILY EASTER HAPPENINGS

Please join us for a new Easter experience - have a continental breakfast with the Easter Bunny - we'll take your picture with the Bunny, you'll make a frame to put it into - watch Easter cartoons and dye easter eggs and have a lot of family fun!! Children's ages - babies through 11 years old. This all happens at the Community Center, 3450 W. 97th St., on Saturday, April 4th at 10:00 a.m., ending at 11:30 a.m., and its all...Free. So don't miss it!!!

All children are to be accompanied by an adult!

NEW TAE KWON DO CLASSES

New Tae Kwon Do classes starting March 31st - classes are held on Tuesday'sat Southeast school -Tae Kwon Do I classes are held 4:00 -5:00 p.m.

Cost is $55.00 for 8 weeks. Call for more information.

NOAH'S ARK ANIMAL WORKSHOPS (ALL AGES) Each participant will hand-stuff a cuddly friend. Next, you will "wish upon" and insert a rainbow star, then zip it closed. You'll then name your new animal, create a customized birth certificate and personalize your new friend by dressing it in an adorable and authentic outfit. Lets get cookin' - Friday, March 13th - 4:00-6:00 p.m. Fee: $20.00/animal $33.00 with outfit Ages: All ages; under 5 years must be accompanied by an adultLocation: Community Center

NEW SESSIONS OF YOGA FOR ADULTS

Tuesday, 7:05- 8:05 & 8:15 - 9:15 PM at the Community CenterWednesday,10:15 - 11: 15 AM at Activity Center, 3220 w. 98TH ST. Wednesday, 8:00 -9:15 pm at the Community Center Fee: $48 for 6 weeks clases start March 24th.

STEP & STRENGTH TRAINING/Step & ABS 30 minutes of Cariovascular by using the step and 30 minutes of srength training using handheld weights, tubing exercise bands, and the ball. Join Step or strength or both classes 1, 2, 3, or 4 days a week starts week of March 20th. Step Strength Step & Abs Class 1: M,T,W,TH Class 1: M,T,W,TH Class 1: Fri fee: Both Step & Strength Step or Strength Step & Abs1 day - $30.00 1 day - $16.00 $16.00 for 8 weeks2 days - $55.00 2 days - $30.003 days - $70.004 days - $85.00 Location: Community Center - Instructor: Kathy Janulis

Nursery available for morning classes - Starts the week of March 20TH **YOGAKIDS (3 - 6 YEAR OLDS)** Yogakids develop strentgth, flexibility, and coordination. They learn to breathe deeply to calm themselves promoting concentration, creativity, and confidence. Day: Thursday - Starting March 12th Time: 12:45 - 1:30 pm Fee: $50.00 for 8 weeks Location: Community Center Instructor: Maureen Collins.REGISTRATION FOR ALL THESE CLASSES WILL START MONDAY, MARCH 9TH.

The O'Hurley name is great for Chicago

by Annette Dixon

Chicago now playing at the Oriental Theatre until March 8th, is getting fantastic reviews.

Even though everyone is talking about John O'Hurley's fancy footwork and moves, and his controled tenor voice, Terra MacLeod (Velma) and Charlotte d'Amboise (Roxie) stoled the show.

The real credit goes to the choreographer, Ann Reinking In the style of Bob Fosse. "As one critic put it legs, legs, everywhere".

This production of **Chicago** is a dancers dream. The singing was great, but the dancing was spectacular from all the members of the cast. They had to deal with a full stage including the orchestra at all times.

Looking at this production of **Chicago** unlike the others I have seen, came across to me as a unique and spell bound production.

The play moved quickly which means you never can lose interest in the plot. However, we cannot under estimate the importance of each cast member including the dancers in the ensemble.

Kevin Chamberlin (Amos) put his all into the show. Roz Ryan, (Matron) received her applause when she first appeared on state.

The costumes, the lighting all played a significant role which was so effective in making this the best prodution of **Chicago**. The ambiance of The Ford Center for Performing Arts Oriental Theatre helped create the magic flow of this production of **Chicago.**

On Friday, February 27th, 2009, Marijo Doody, critic for Village View, was at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra sitting next to two women from the cast of "**Chicago**". They were Evelyn Christina Tonn (Hunyak, Roxie /Understudy) and Andrea Mislan (June, Velma/ understudy).

Both women are classically trained and danced for the Sarasota and Winnepeg professional ballet companies respectively. They were excited to be in our town Chicago and they indicated the show has been on tour in the world for 18 months.

The next stop is Canada. Both women have played the lead Roxie and Velma in other states and countries.

Acorn Public Library announces Celtic Concert for St. Patrick's Day

The Acorn Public Library will host a musical performance in celebration of St. Patrick's Day on Thursday March 19, 2009 at 7 PM. Local quartet Trillium will perform a set of Celtic music that will be perfect for the whole family. Trillium, which is named after a Midwestern wildflower, has been playing concerts around the area since early 2005. The group is composed of Mim Eichmann (vocals & hammered dulcimer), Ed Hall (guitar & banjo), Doug Lofstrom (bass) and Paul Russell (fiddle & Mandolin). The group's repertoire covers a wide variety of traditional music, including ragtime, blues, folk, Celtic and Dixieland.

Acorn Public Library is located at 15624 S. Central Avenue in Oak Forest. Interested individuals are encouraged to call (708) 687-3700 to register their attendance. This program is offered free to the public.

Moraine Workshop

Saturday, March 21, 9 a.m.-NoonMoraine Valley Community College Bldg. T, Fogelson Theater 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. Workshop Topics• Definition, history and myths about franchising• Federal and state laws and regulations• Benefits and limitations of purchasing a franchise • Finding the right franchise• How to finance a franchise SpeakersJerry Moriarty has been in franchising for more than 36 years. Biagio Bucaro, a franchise attorney with the law office of Biagio Bucaro LLC. Tony Denovellis, who holds an M.B.A. in business management from Saint Xavier University.Three ways to register Phone—(708) 974-2110 In Person,Registration Office, Building C, College CenterOnline, morainevalley.edu for previously enrolled students.Course code: EV4-201-100 $60 S Contact (708) 974-5468, wdcs@morainevalley.edu or visit morainevalley.edu/wdcs.

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CST stages Twelfth Night

The Chicago Shakespeare Theatre (CST) concludes its 2008-09 subscription season with Josie Rourke, a celebrated director of both classical and contemporary theatre, making her debut directing "Twelfth Night' The production is set to run March 29-June 7 in the Courtyard Theatre at the Navy Pier site. (Note: it is easily accessible to public transportation).

Ms. Rourke was recently appointed Artistic Director of London's Bush Theatre, a 36-year-old company that focuses on development of new plays. She has also held positions at the Donmar Warehouse, Sheffield Theatres, Royal Shakespeare Company and the Royal Court.

The "Twelfth Night" features the following actors: Scott Jaeck, Ross Lehman, Mark Montgomery, Larry Yando, Karen Aldridge, Joel Stanley Huff, Ora Jones and others.

The production team includes Robert Wierzel (lighting), James savage (sound), Melissa Veal (wig and makeup), Alaric Jans (composer) and Kate Glodoski (properties).

To purchase tickets call the box office at 312-595-5600. Tickets range $44-$70. For information on CST visit the web at www.chicagoshakes.com.

Doody's Doodlings

by Marijo Doody

Joffrey Ballet has been recently announced that the Gerald Arpino Foundation is formed to lease rights to Arpino and Joffrey Ballets. This is so that these world renowned choreographers Gerald Arpino and Robert Joffrey legacies and quality of their ballets will continue. Thirty-five ballets of varying length and size will be available for lease immediately.

Some included are "Light Rain", "Trinity", the pas de deux from "Sea Shadow", "Secret Postcards" "Secret Places" and "Pas Des Deesses".

The Gerald Arpino Foundation Board of Directors includes Arpino family members as well as Joffrey Ballet Executive Director Christopher C Conway, Chanthel Arthur, Cameron Basden and Harriet Ross. The office is located at The Joffrey Tower, 10 East Randolph Street, Chicago. For more information contact H. Ross at 312-739-0120 x 1085 or hross@joffreyballet.org.

In a recent letter received from Hubbard Street Dance (HSD) Artistic Director, Jim Vincent, who has served since 2000, was named artistic director of the Netherlands Dans Theater (NDT), the internationally renowned contemporary company based in The Hague.

I remember in 2004 that HSD performed for the first time with CSO in a Bach program that was the hit of the season. I wrote a review and low and behold, I got a letter of acknow-ledgement from Jim Vincent, HSD's Artistic Director at home. They received my address from CSO, as I was a subscriber. That was very special.

Vincent will continue to work with HSD until the end of this season in August. He is still in shock from this appointment in the Netherlands, where he was associated 1978-90 as a dancer, ballet master and a rehearsal director. Vincent succeeded Lou Conte, founder of Hubbard Street Dance and vastly expanded the company to attract world class choreographers to share their talents or create new ones for the company. Everything I have seen has been most innovative and creative. Their educational programming is marvelous. It is still a great treat to see the company with live music in the CSO joint programming. I see next years CSO programming has HSD on the schedule.

Vincent leaves HSD in good hands with Glenn Edgerton and Lucas Crandall as associate artistic directors, Jason Palmquist as executive director and (former dancer) Taryn Kaschock, artistic associate. The company is booked for an Israeli tour in October and a visit to the festival in Baden-Baden Germany in 2010. Congratulations to Jim Vincent.

Lookingglass's current production of Thornton Wilder turn of the century (the last one) play "Our Town" is an interesting portrayal of depression times. Certainly morals were different then, life expectancy was less than now and the message that we need to fully appreciate the simple pleasures in life is timeless. We all need to live lives to the fullest, to appreciate what you have in family, work lives, friendships and other activities, as it may be someone's last day. The play runs through April 5 at Water Tower Water Works located 821 N Michigan.

The box office number is 312-337-0665.

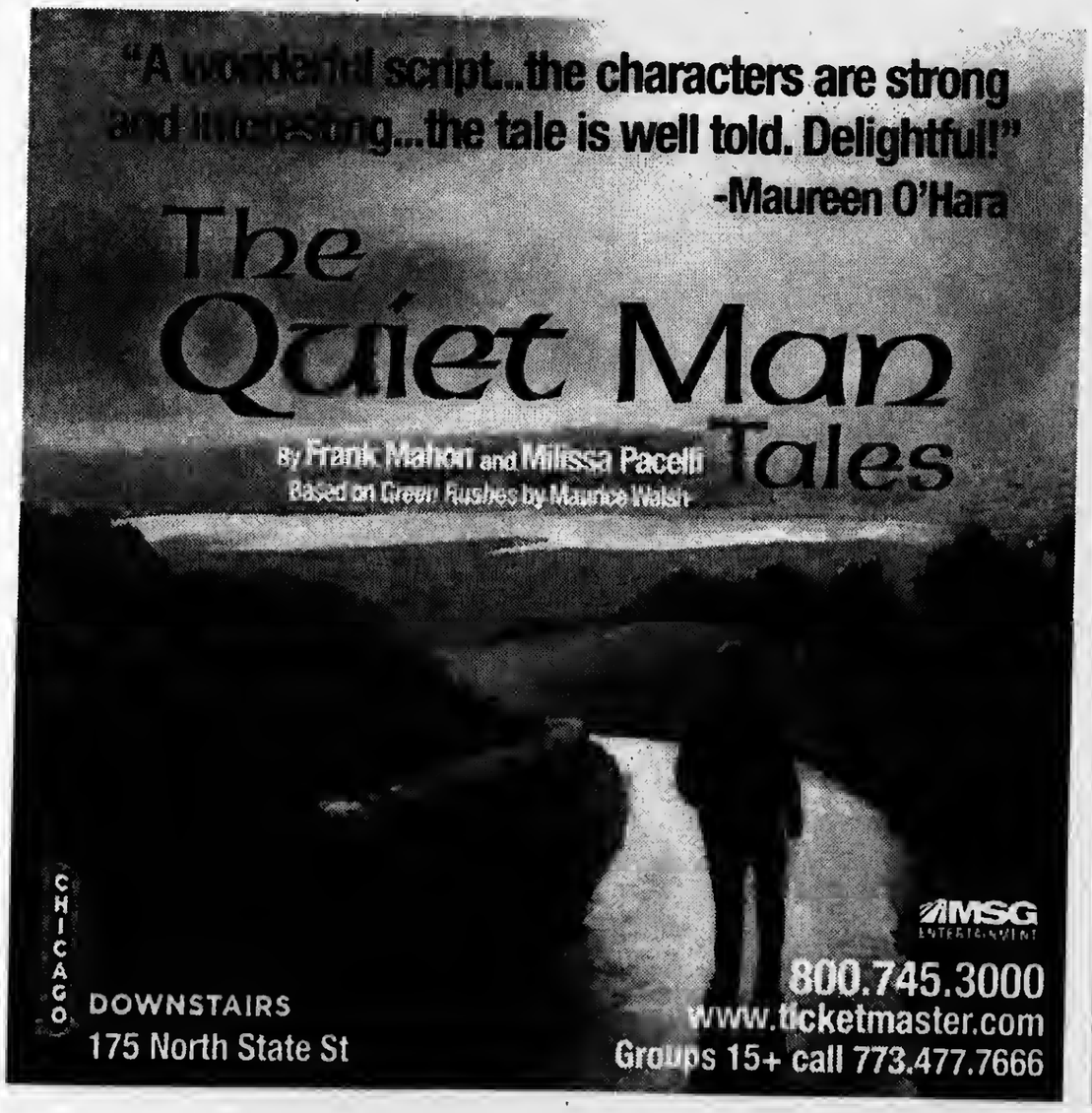
Afro-Cuban All Stars Listing

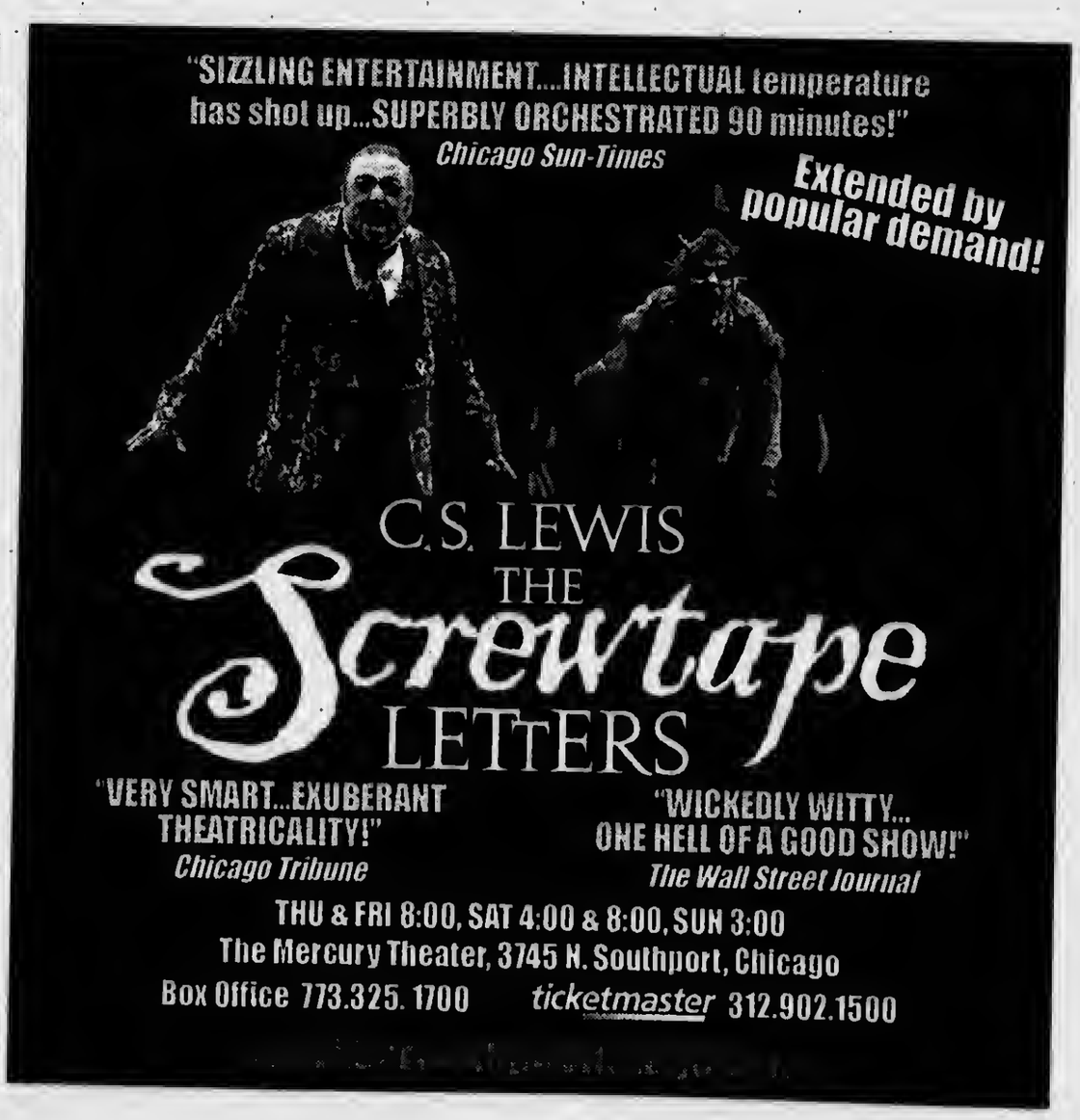
A secret satellite. A flying piano. A Cuban maestro who combines the musical sixth sense of Quincy Jones with the international savvy of James Bond. These are the stories behind the U.S. return of Cuban music after half a decade, thanks to Juan de Marcos (the man behind Buena Vista Social Club) & **Afro-Cuban All-Stars'** national tour, which stops in Chicago's south suburbs for an exclusive Chicago-area engagement at The Center. The incarnation of the **Afro-Cuban All Stars** for this tour brings together top Cuban musicians from the Americas and Europe in what promises to be the opening salvo in a new era of U.S.-Cuban cultural exchange. Band members performing at The Center include Juan de Marcos, Ignacio "Nachito" Herrera (pianist), Calixto Oviedo (drummer), Yaure Muniz, Igort Rivas and Miguel Valdes (trumpeters) and Alberto "Molote" Martinez (trombonist).

Performance Schedule: Friday, March 20 at 8 p.m.

Venue: The Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL 60466 Tickets: (708) 235-2222 or centertickets.net

Ticket Prices: $35 - $55





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Obituary

Kenneth H. Connolly, age 81; WWII USN Veteran; beloved husband of the late Sylvia nee Halper, loving father of Kenneth (Kathleen) Janice, Susan and Cindy, dearest grandfather of Kenny and Johnnie, fond brother of Doris Fons, Robert, Charles and Alan Connolly, also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives. Retired member of Electricians Union Local #134.

Mr Connolly was born in Chicago, and was a Residence of Evergreen Park, IL.

Resting was at Kosary Funeral Home, in Evergreen Park on February 20,and 21, 2009. Funeral Service, at Interment St. Mary Cemetery. For further information call 708-499-3223.

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The Countdown Begins

86 Days Until Opening Celebration for Shedd's Belugas, Dolphins, Otters and Oceanarium!
Reimagined Oceanarium Reopens May 22 – Just in Time for Memorial Day

Today Shedd Aquarium unveiled the much-anticipated visual renderings of the soon-to-be-completed Oceanarium renovation and announced the date of the public reopening of the world's premier marine mammal pavilion: Friday, May 22. In only three months – 86 days to be exact – guests will be able to explore the new Oceanarium and welcome home their favorite animals, which have been "on vacation" since last September. Shedd also announced that advance tickets to be one of the first to visit the Oceanarium will go on sale starting February 25, and Shedd's membership program is offering advance opening previews and exclusive visiting hours throughout the coming year.

From getting reacquainted with beluga whales, Pacific white-sided dolphins, Alaskan sea otters, sea lions and penguins, to being among the first to experience new exhibits like Polar Play Zone and the Grainger Beluga Encounter Habitat, and witnessing the magic of Shedd's new marine mammal show (debuting late summer), guests have plenty to see and do in Shedd Aquarium's renovated Oceanarium.

"Eighteen years ago Chicagoans explored the new Oceanarium for the first time. It has since become one of the most popular marine mammal pavilions in the world. Now millions of guests will have the rare opportunity to again create new, first-time memories with the reopening of the Oceanarium, starting on May 22," said Ted A. Beattie, Shedd's president and CEO. "We've remained true to the core essence of the popular exhibit and are welcoming everyone's favorite animals back. But we're also introducing some new animals, enhancing our guest experience, better connecting guests with animals, opening new exhibits designed for kids and adults, and later this summer, we will unveil a new marine mammal show not equaled anywhere in the world. It's an exciting year for Shedd Aquarium and Chicago, and we encourage our friends from around the world to plan their visits now."

Visitors will learn about the animals by exploring the surprising variety of interconnected habitats that make up the Pacific Northwest – temperate rain forests, rivers, tide pools, the rocky ocean coast and open water. According to Beattie, even with all the new animals, features and programming, one thing remains constant: Shedd continues living its conservation mission by guiding Oceanarium visitors to see how their positive actions can help the wild animals that live in the Pacific Northwest.

Here are a few highlights of the many new changes coming when the Oceanarium reopens on May 22:

Polar Play Zone

Climbing, imagining, building, exploring, sharing, pretending – kids can do it all in this spectacular new exhibit! Shedd transforms the former underwater viewing gallery into its first-ever permanent exhibit for children, chock-full of hands-on activities for busy hands and minds. In its four sections – Shallow Ocean, Deep Ocean, Icy North and Icy South – kids splash in water, dress up like an otter, build a penguin nest of rocks and even board a submarine to explore under the Arctic ice. See enthralling underwater views of the otters, penguins, dolphins and belugas, too.

Advance Oceanarium Tickets Now On Sale.

Shedd's Oceanarium reopening is one of the most anticipated events of 2009, so advance tickets or memberships are recommended.

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Volume 7 Number 5

March 3, 2009

St. Pat's/St. Joe's Dinner Dance

Orland Township is sponsoring a St. Pat's/St. Joe's Dinner Dance for seniors age 55 and over. The dinner dance will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2009 at the Orland Chateau, 14500 S. LaGrange Rd., Orland Park , from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Tickets are necessary and may be purchased at the Orland Township office, 15100 S. 94th Ave., Orland Park . Tickets for Orland Township residents are available for $16.00. Non-resident tickets are available for $21.00.

Ticket price includes a family style meal and entertainment by the Ken Jandes Band. Door prizes and a 50/50 raffle will be offered. Orland Township serves the communities of Orland Park, Orland Hills, Unincorporated Orland Township , and the western half of Tinley Park .

The Orland Township office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday evenings until 6:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Kathy Kenyeri, Senior Services Coordinator or Janice Licata, Senior Services Assistant at (708) 403-4222.

Arthritis Exercise Class Offered at Orland Township

The Arthritis Foundation Exercise program is a community-based, non-clinical group exercise program designed to help those who have joint and/or muscle problems achieve improved joint mobility, muscle strength and endurance in order to improve the performance of the daily activities. Exercises are done while sitting in a chair or standing. Participants are not required to perform floor exercises, but they will be reviewed.

The program, offered by certified Orland Township instructors in partnership with the Arthritis Foundation Greater Chicago chapter, runs twice a week for eight weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The next session is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, March 17 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Orland Township Activity Center , 15100 S. 94th Avenue , Orland Park .

In addition to the various exercises, the program also includes health education, movement activities, and relaxation exercises.

All participants must obtain a release form from their physician in order to participate in the exercise program. To register contact the Orland Township office at (708) 403-4222.

For more information contact program coordinator and certified instructor Ellen Friedl. There is a minimal fee of $25.00 for the eight-week session. Registration is limited to 20 people per class.

Pappas Honors Artists at her " Lincoln Lives" Art Exhibit Reception held in her office

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas cuts a cake along with Jon Balke, [far right] President of the Chicago Society of Artists and Master of Ceremonies at the event, Julia Oehmke, [second from left] coordinator of the exhibit, and artist, Sandra Holubow [far left] at a " Lincoln Lives" art exhibit reception held in her downtown Chicago office.

A group of artists invited by the Treasurer to honor the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln were awarded certificates of excellence for their artistic contributions.

PAWS Coping with Changes as 35th Anniversary Arrives

From its meager beginnings in the early 1970's, Peoples Animal Welfare Society of Tinley Park has grown to an organization of hundreds of volunteers saving and adopting thousands of stray and abandoned dogs and cats in the local area.

Now the directors of PAWS are planning a fund-raising dinner-dance, themed "Angels Among Us," to meet the growing costs of caring for unwanted and orphaned animals.

The PAWS shelter, located at 8301 W. 191st Street, organizes numerous fund raising events to maintain and care for the animals in its charge. Unfortunately, the numbers of abandoned pets has grown.

Despite our educational outreach programs and the constant promotion of Low-Cost-Spay-Neuter Programs, PAWS has experienced sharp increases in the numbers of unwanted litters of kittens, stray dogs and cats, and other relinquished animals from Tinley Park and the surrounding communities.

The "Angels Among Us" gathering is an attempt to draw financial support from the local area businesses and surrounding community to continue the mission of saving our local animals.

The 35th Anniversary Dinner Dance will be held on Friday, March 27th, at the Orland Chateau. Silent and live auctions will be accompanied by raffles to raise funds for the shelter. Local businesses can also contribute to a commemorative ad booklet available the evening of the dinner dance.

Please contact Geri at 815-469-8929 for tickets or www.pawstinleypark.org

White Water Canyon Water Park passes on sale

Tinley Park, Illinois, February 25, 2009 - Is the winter weather still cramping your style? Start thinking about summer at the Tinley Park-Park District! Season passes for White Water Canyon go on sale March 1.

Purchase your pass by May 12 and enjoy the pre-season rates! The Park District offers individual, couple and family memberships, starting as low as $83 for the entire season! Senior discounts are also available.

White Water Canyon is full of different areas for play, relaxation, and cooling off. Some of the amenities include the lazy river, water slides, spray ground, in-water jungle gym, diving board, drop slide, zero-depth pool, and much more.

If all the excitement works up your appetite, just head over to the Canyon Café and order a bite to eat from the extensive menu.

In order to speed up the season pass registration, make sure to bring a Driver's License or State ID, and utility bill; for children bring a copy of their birth certificate of current school report card with address.

Summer is creeping up fast, so become a member of White Water Canyon today!

For further information, contact the Park District at 708/342-4200.

Program announcements for Orland Park and Mokena

The Cancer Support Center in Mokena is sponsoring a Walk Of Hope on May 17, 2009. You can walk as a solo individual or get a team together. The "Kick-Off" will take place at The Cancer Support Center. The address is 19250 S. Everett Lane Mokena, IL 60448.

This is an inaugural event for the center. Raising funds at this event will help us continue to offer our FREE services and programs for those affected by cancer.

If you need more information or would like to RSVP for the "Kick-Off" please call (708) 478-3529 or Walk Chairperson Kathy Kahlhammer at (815) 341-1238.

Moraine Valley Community College is holding a Veteran Information Session on March 6, 2009, 8:00am - 12:00noon, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills, IL, Fogelson Theatre, Bldg. T.

The event focus will be on preparing for future JOBS and college programs available. Topics include: new careers, upgrading skills after military service, welding programs, NDT (non-destructive testing), residential energy and Green collar jobs. Speakers HelmettoHardhats.org, International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 786, Illinois Office of State Treasurer, Illinois Office of Lt. Governor, U.S. Marine

MVCC Environment/ Manufacturing Training and MVCC Center for Disability Services. http://www.morainevalley.edu/admissions/veterans.htm or Debbie Wills, 708-974-5759.

Sertoma Centre is looking for people willing to donate one evening of their time on March 24th to help over 600 individuals with disabilities.

We ask you to join other volunteers for a bus ride to McCormick Place and a few hours of packing vendor booths.

Volunteers enjoy a bus ride with dinner and a few hours packing products from the Housewares Show.We will find the appropriate job for each person's skill level and ability, and will accommodate anyone who is interested in joining us.

You must be 18 to participate. We need to know by March 17th who all of our volunteers are. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Diane Sak, Sertoma Centre event manager at (708) 481-5627 dsak@sertomacentre.org. www.sertomacentre.org and click on the "Housewares Show 2009 Volunteer" tab.

The coach buses will leave Sertoma Centre, 4343 W. 123rd St, Alsip at 4 p.m. sharp and return by 9:30 p.m. (You must arrive at Sertoma no later than 3:45 p.m.). Participants will receive a boxed dinner during the ride into Chicago.

The Growth Coach is sponsoring the OPPORTUNITY ACCELERATOR EXPO, which will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2009, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Homewood Suites by Hilton, 16245 S. LaGrange Road, Orland Park. Join over 50 experienced local business owners in the first annual Opportunity Accelerator Expo. This unique FREE event is designed to help partner local business owners with the growing population of driven and talented unemployed and underemployed business people looking to improve their situation. For more information on attending or exhibiting, visit us at www.OpportunityAccelerator.com or call Alex Livieratos at 708-288-6468.

Country Inn & Suites has a solution for your family's winter blues! Reserve a night at the Kids Night Inn! This special promotion is sure to give you a fun time to reconnect with your children while getting an exceptional value.

Your adventure will include: Country Inn & Suites book bag filled with microwave popcorn, bottled water, discount coupon book for the Chicago Southland, Map Activity, and swimming goggles, a Complimentary hot breakfast buffet, Lending library stocked with books for children and adults and Access to our Indoor heated pool, hot tub and fitness center.

Please call 708.560.9300 or visit www.countryinns.com/tinleyparkil. Offer expires 03/31/09.

ATTENTION ORLAND HOMEOWNERS!

The Law Offices of Snyder McGovern LLC can still appeal your property tax assessment increase and fight your rising property taxes.

We are offering a special discounted rate for OPACC members and their families of $25 plus 25% of the first year's tax savings. Call Timothy S. McGovern, Esq. at (708) 448-9700, or www.chicagopropertytaxlawyer.com, and be sure to tell us you are an OPACC member.

The Good as New Thrift Store really needs donations, especially of furniture. We will be happy to pick it up. The Good as New Thrift Store is run by Sertoma Centre. We are a community service agency that offers 14 programs for individuals with developmental, physical, emotional disabilities and/or mental illness. They come from all the south and southwest suburbs in Cook County and the city of Chicago.

Most are from the most economically challenged of situations as well as having disabilities. Proceeds from the store go to underwrite our programs. All donations are tax deductible.

If you have gently used furniture that you no longer want or need, please call the store at 708-481-5627 and ask for Diane or Sean. They can arrange a pick up.

Please be sure before calling that the furniture is usable, even if you no longer want it.

ComputerTroubleshooters is now a donation drop off center for P.A.W.S.

You can win a 22" Flat Screen Monitor or Free Labor Service for one of your computers just for a donation!

Contact Linda for more information 708-428-4968. Please help the animals!

Start your year with a clean slate! New lower rates available at American Secure Storage. Clean out your garage or closets and store your valuables with us.

We are Clean, Convenient and Secure and now we are more affordable for you to make that extra space available for your goods. Use our 14 foot moving truck to move your belongings with ease.

Call us at 815-464-0500 or stop by our new facility at 8531 West 191st Street, Mokena.

Capture the Clover

Come join the Tinley Park-Park District in the spirit of St. Patty's Day on Friday, March 13 for the annual Clover Hunt!

The fun takes place at Centennial Park, 7800 W. 167th Street. Children age 3-5 will start their search for the spectacular clovers at 4:00 pm, and children age 6-10 at 4:30 pm.

Special prizes will be awarded to those children who find the special clovers. Make sure you come early because the first 150 children in each session will receive treat bags with all sorts of goodies!

This is a FREE event, so registration is not required. Be sure to dress for the weather because the Clover Hunt will be held rain or shine.

For further information, contact the Park District at 708/342-4200.

Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt

Come join the Easter Bunny for his favorite past time – the Tinley Park-Park District's Annual Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt!

This year the fun takes place on Friday, April 3 at McCarthy Park, 16801 S. 80th Avenue. Children age 3-5 will search for eggs and prizes at 7:30 pm, and children age 6-8 begin at 8:15 pm.

Be sure to bring your flashlights, but leave your Easter baskets and bags at home as they are not allowed on the ballfield.

This is a FREE event, and there is no need to register. Just show up for the fun – rain or shine!

For more information, contact the Park District at 708/342-4200.

Something special for everyone

IRISH MASS to be held a St.Fabian'sTues. March 10, 2009, 7pm (preludes begin)

St. Fabian's, 83rd & Oketo in Bridgeview (2 blocks west of Harlem) will be hosting their Ninth Annual Irish Mass on March 10th, with ministers drawn from thruout Chicagoland.

The Presider: Fr. John Trout, Assoc. Pastor of Queen of All Saints Church.

Music will be provided by Dennis J. Newman, Music Director of St. Fabian's and of LifeSong Liturgical Ensemble, along with cantors Ann Klochan, Jim Poynton and other musicians from St. Fabian's; plus NW Indiana Symphony mezzo Becky Scherer; gifted flautist & Archdiocesan Music Director, Anna Belle O'Shea; and local bagpiper (& Music Director of the Emerald Society Pipes & Drums) Bruce Quintos.

The evening begins with Irish preludes at 7pm, with the Mass itself at 7:30pm.

Refreshments will follow at 8:45pm in the parish hall, accompanied by the lively steps of the Weber Irish Dancers, along with raffle and prizes (among them, tickets to professional sports, and a pair of round-trip tickets on Southwest Airlines).

All profits from the evening will go to benefit Oak Lawn's new Ronald McDonald House, providing lodging for the families of seriously ill children being treated at Advocate Hope Children's Hospital.

St. Fabian's invites all who love Irish music to come and celebrate "A Candle in the Window—the Irish Way of Welcome."

Orland Township has a trip for seniors

Isle of Capri / Meskwaki Casino Trip for SeniorsOur first stop will be at the "Caribbean-Style" Isle of Capri in Bettendorf , Iowa .

The Isle of Capri package includes 5 1/2 hours of gaming, $5 in Isle Slot Play and a free lunch buffet. After collecting your winnings, we will then proceed to the Meskwaki Casino in Tama , Iowa for a two-night stay where you can choose from over 1650 of the newest and hottest reel and video slots in denominations from a penny to $100.

Table Games feature all the popular Vegas style games including Blackjack, Craps, Roulette, Let It Ride and Three Card Poker. With five restaurant venues, indoor pool, and the new Winding Stream Spa, there is something for everyone. The Meskwaki package includes $20 match play each day and $3 food voucher each day.

Ticket price includes deluxe motorcoach transportation and overnight accommodations. We will be leaving on Wednesday, April 1 and returning on Friday, April 3. Resident tickets are available for $165.00 each and non-resident tickets will be available on March 3 for $170.00.

Tickets are available at the Orland Township office, 15100 S. 94th Ave. , Orland Park . Buses will leave from the north side of 151st Street directly behind Robert Morris College at 6:30 a.m. on Wednesday and return at approximately 6:30 p.m. on Friday.

The Orland Township office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday evenings until 6:00 p.m.

For more information, contact the office at (708) 403-4222.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 5

March 3, 2009

The Chicago Ridge Public Library announces programs

The library is located at 10400 S. Oxford 708-423-7753

Quilting Block of the Month is here on Sunday, March 8th from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Join us once a month for a demonstration on how to piece and assemble quilt blocks. No machines, cutting, or sewing during these free sessions, Block of the Month is strictly instructional.

Get Ready for Spring Cleaning on Thursday, March 5th at 7:00 p.m. Detox your home and medicine cabinet, making your personal environment healthy for your family. Learn how to control toxic products in your home and how to keep medicine from getting in the wrong hands. This free program is presented by the Chicago Ridge Fire Department as part of the Risk Watch Safety Program.

Self-Defense for Women class is on Thursday, March 12th at 6:30 p.m. Join Pat Collins, a retired Chicago Police Officer, and learn how to protect yourself with this practical and simplified system of self-protection. Learn personal protection through awareness, avoidance, and verbal de-escalation skills. This class is limited to 15 participants and Chicago Ridge Residents have priority.

STIMULUS 2009: SOMETHING FOR NEARLY EVERYONE

Millions of taxpayers will take home more money from the almost $790 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, but most provisions won't happen automatically.

"The Recovery Act gives taxpayers money to spend, incentives to spend it and choices to spend it on," said Amy McAnarney, executive director of The Tax Institute at H&R Block (NYSE:HRB). "There are provisions that pay you now and some that pay you later. But for most individuals, this isn't a check-is-in-the-mail stimulus. Taxpayers will need to have guidance to maximize the benefit."

H&R Block notes five key areas that impact individual taxpayers today and in the future:

- Putting money in taxpayers' pockets now
- Helping more of those who have less
- Making homeownership more affordable
- Increasing access to higher education
- Getting green from the garage

"The Tax Institute recommends consulting with a trusted tax professional to help decipher the complex changes and what they mean to each individual."

Putting money in taxpayers' pockets now

The bill includes several provisions that immediately boost the wallets of workers, non-workers, the unemployed and retirees. For both 2009 and 2010, the Making Work Pay tax cut means up to $400 for individuals and $800 for couples through a reduction in income tax withholding; in other words, bigger paychecks. Eligible workers may need to work with their employers to ensure any adjusted income tax withholding is appropriate for their situation. For example, if all working taxpayers are automatically transferred to the new reduced withholding amounts, certain taxpayers may actually owe more taxes when they file their 2009 and 2010 returns. Eligible self-employed taxpayers can adjust their quarterly estimated payments. For those taxpayers who do not receive the full amount this year, they will receive the remaining as a credit on next year's tax return.

Social Security and SSI recipients, retired and disabled veterans, and railroad retirees will get a one-time payment of $250. The Social Security Administration and Veterans Administration will provide the information about who qualifies for this payment, so eligible individuals won't have to do anything. Individuals on a federal or state retirement program who don't receive Social Security benefits can claim a $250 credit when they file their 2009 tax returns. "However, there's no double-dipping," said McAnarney. "Taxpayers who qualify for both the Making Work Pay Credit and the $250 payment can't get the full amount of both benefits." In these cases, the Making Work Pay Credit will be reduced by $250.

The Act has several benefits for the unemployed. Many will receive a $25 weekly boost to their unemployment check. In addition, the first $2,400 in benefits will be exempt from federal tax in 2009. Eligible unemployed workers paying for COBRA will benefit from a 65 percent federal subsidy for their monthly insurance premiums.

Helping more of those who have less

The Recovery Act expands the Child Tax Credit, allowing families to begin qualifying for the credit with every dollar earned over $3,000. For taxpayers, this change translates into a refundable credit of up to $1,000 for each qualifying child under 17. Refundable credits give taxpayers a real boost because if the person has no tax liability, the credit is issued in the form of a refund.

This is the second year in a row the income threshold has been lowered. For 2008, it was lowered to $8,500 from $11,750.

The Act also increases the Earned Income Credit for families with three or more children, where previously EIC benefits were capped at two children. The Act would also increase the beginning point of the phaseout range for all married couples filing a joint return. That's good news for married couples regardless of the number of children they have.

Making homeownership more affordable Taxpayers on the fence about buying their first home may want to consider the Act's $8,000 tax credit.

Unlike the incentive passed last year, first-time homebuyers will not have to repay the credit as long as they live in the house for three years. To qualify, eligible homebuyers must make their purchase between Jan. 1, 2009, through Nov. 30, 2009. Taxpayers who have purchased a home this year can take advantage of this credit on their 2008 return. For those who have already filed, filing an amendment is the best way to capture this full credit on their 2008 tax return.

The plan also includes tax credits for energy-efficient improvements such as qualified new furnaces, windows and doors to existing homes. The credit applies to 2009 and 2010 tax returns, with a lifetime cap of $1,500.

Increasing access to higher education More taxpayers will be able to qualify for the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which will provide a new, partly refundable $2,500 tax credit for college tuition in 2009 and 2010. By making the credit partially refundable, nearly 4 million low-income students now will be able to qualify for the credit. This can be a better alternative for taxpayers than the two existing higher education credits.

Also, computer and computer technology costs will now qualify in 2009 and 2010 under the Section 529 Education Plans, which are tax-exempt college saving plans. Previously, eligible expenses included only tuition, room and board, and books, supplies and equipment that were required for attendance at the school.

Getting green from the garage The package allows taxpayers to deduct the state and local sales and excise taxes paid on the purchase of new cars, light trucks, recreational vehicles and motorcycles. The vehicles must be purchased from the enactment date of the Act through the end of the year.

The Act also provides a tax credit of up to $7,500 for families who purchase plug-in hybrid vehicles purchased after 2009 or plug-in conversion after date of enactment and before 2012. Even those taxpayers who don't itemize can benefit.

Chicago Ridge approves Community Development Block Grant

A Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) hearing was held prior to the Feb. 17 Chicago Ridge Board of Trustees meeting. This was the second and final CDBG public hearing. The board approved a resolution for the 2009 CDBG projects for 2010 street resurfacing. The village is applying for funds for the two projects. Phase one includes street resurfacing of Mather from Sayre to Nottingham; Nottingham from Mather to 99th Street; Sayre from Mather to 99th Street.

The CDBG funds requested for this project is $252,250 - the village will contribute $30,270 for a total of $282.520. Phase two includes the Frontage Road from 99th Street north to the Harlem overpass. The amount requested for the project is $47,750 with a village match of $5,730 for a total of 53,480. The village is requesting the maximum amount of $300,000 and the total village match is $36,000 for a grand total of $336,000 for the two projects.

The board concurred with the zoning boards recommendation to grant a special use with the stipulation that all building inspections are made and approved. A resolution was presented to Steve Zumbo, honoring him for 28 years of dedicated service to the Chicago Ridge Library. Zumbo retired Jan. 18 2009. A resolution supporting the Southwest Water System expansion was also approved.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

B-MAC EDITION

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 5

March 3, 2009

Mayor Daley Chicago Community Trust Officials announce $1 Million in Grants through new Unity Challenge Fund

Seven Awards Are Made To Help Address Hunger, Homelessness in Metro Area Mayor Richard M. Daley and officials of the Chicago Community Trust announced seven grants totaling $1 million to address hunger and homelessness in the metropolitan area through the Trust's newly-created "Unity Challenge Fund" initiative.

"No one city alone can turn its economy around. It continues to be a great source of our city's strength that we have developed partnerships with the business and philanthropic communities that time and again have shown their commitment to improve the quality of life for every person in Chicago," Daley said in a news conference held at Interfaith House, 3456 W. Franklin Blvd., a homeless shelter that will benefit from the program.

"One of our most committed partners in these efforts has been the Chicago Community Trust," he said.
The City has worked together with the Trust on a wide range of issues including education, housing, climate change, workforce programs and prisoner re-entry, Daley said.

The Trust is working to raise $1 million for the Unity Challenge Fund. To encourage donations, it is providing a two-to-one match, with the overall goal of a $3 million Fund.

The first round grants from the Unity Challenge Fund are: Hunger - $450,000 Greater Chicago Food Depository – A grant of $250,000, which will allow for the Chicago Anti-Hunger Federation purchase of 8,600 cases of fresh produce, which includes fruits and vegetables. The produce will be distributed to 165 homeless shelters, food pantries and soup kitchens in the Chicago area.

A grant of $100,000, which will allow for the Northern Illinois Food Bank 600,000 additional pounds of food for the low-income residents of DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will Counties. These counties have seen an average increase of 38% in individual and household food assistance requests. The Northern Illinois Food Bank will distribute the additional food supply to over 304 food pantries, soup kitchens and community programs in the six collar counties.– A grant of $100,000 which will allow for a purchase of Homelessness - $450,000 Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County which will be used to support the operations of eight emergency homeless shelters in diverse areas of Cook County. These shelters provide 513 beds each night, which means 187,245 shelter nights will be made available to families and individuals in one year.– A grant of $150,000,

The Inner Voice shelters located across the City of Chicago. These emergency shelters provide a total of 955 beds each night. A grant of $200,000 to support the operations of 12 emergency Heating bills subsidy Department of Family and Support Services' effort to help homeless agencies cover the costs of heating bills this winter.– A grant of $100,000 to supplement the Chicago Homeless Prevention - $100,000 Catholic Charities' Emergency Assistance Program homeless prevention assistance at three locations in Chicago and six locations in Cook County. Priorities are given to communities on the South and West Sides of Chicago and in the towns of Cicero and Harvey. Catholic Charities has seen a number of requests for assistance increased by 66%.

"Even though the economy has stalled, Chicagoans' capacity to care has only increased." Daley said that leaders of our city have a shared responsibility to do all they can to help protect the City's economy and working families.

A grant of $100,000 to provide purchase of an additional 180,000 pounds of protein. High protein food includes chicken, turkey, beef, pork, eggs and peanut butter. This grant, will serve approximately 700,000 individuals, or meals, at a cost of about .36 cents per serving.

The Greater Chicago Food Depository will distribute the additional food through 169 food pantries and soup kitchens in high needs areas where communities have seen as much as a 59% increase in the number of households requesting food assistance.

Francis Eugene Cardinal George, O.M.I., to receive Shield of Saint Xavier

Honor to be presented at President's Scholarship Ball, March 21, 2009 – Francis Eugene Cardinal George, O.M.I., will receive the Shield of Saint Xavier at the 24th Annual President's Scholarship Ball on Saturday, March 21, 2009 at the Hilton Chicago.

"The Shield of Saint Xavier is our University's highest honor. It is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment and service to the greater Chicago community, particularly to the city's Catholic institutions," said SXU President Judith A. Dwyer, Ph.D. "We believe that Cardinal George's leadership and service to the Archdiocese of Chicago exemplify the ideals of Saint Francis Xavier."

His Eminence Francis Eugene Cardinal George, O.M.I., eighth Archbishop of Chicago, was born in Chicago to Francis J. and Julia R. McCarthy George on Jan. 16, 1937. He is the first native Chicagoan to serve as Archbishop of Chicago.

After attending St. Pascal Grade School on Chicago's northwest side and St. Henry Preparatory Seminary in Belleville , Ill. , he entered the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate on Aug. 14, 1957. He studied theology at the University of Ottawa, Canada, and was ordained a priest by Most Rev. Raymond Hillinger on Dec. 21, 1963, at St. Pascal Church.

Cardinal George earned a master's degree in philosophy at the Catholic University of America in Washington , D.C. in 1965 and a doctorate in American philosophy at Tulane University , New Orleans , La. , in 1970. In 1971, he received a master's degree in theology from the University of Ottawa in Canada .

Cardinal George went on to hold several prominent posts during his career before being installed on May 27, 1996, as the ninth Archbishop of Portland. Less than a year later, on April 8, 1997, Pope John Paul II named him the eighth Archbishop of Chicago, to the See left vacant by the death of His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Bernardin on Nov. 14, 1996. His installation by Agostino Cardinal Cacciavillan, then Archbishop and Apostolic Pro-Nuncio for the United States , took place at Holy Name Cathedral on May 7, 1997. On Jan. 18, 1998, Pope John Paul II announced Archbishop George's elevation to the Sacred College of Cardinals. For Cardinal George's complete biography, please visit:www.archchicago.org/ . SXU Trustees Mary MacLaren and Brian Shannon, Jr. will serve as Ball co-chairs.

The President's Scholarship Ball has raised millions of dollars for the President's Scholarship Program, which provides financial support to Saint Xavier's most deserving students. The black-tie event is open to the public.

For information or reservations please contact (773) 298-3311 or specialevents@sxu.edu with "President's Scholarship Ball" in the subject line.

MetroSouth offers free mammograms and pap smears

MetroSouth Medical Center (formerly St. Francis Hospital) is offering free breast and cervical cancer screenings for uninsured English-, Chinese- and Spanish-speaking patients through the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program.

Women ages 35 and older who have no health insurance can obtain free mammograms, pelvic exams and Pap smears all on the same day, by appointment. Younger women without insurance also may be seen if they have a referral from a physician.MetroSouth Medical Center 12935 South Gregory Street, Blue Island, IL

MetroSouth staffs three dedicated phone lines, (708) 489-7940 - English (708) 489-7941 - Chinese (708) 489-7942 - Spanish

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

Your Suburban Newspaper for 35 years

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 35 Number 17 March 17, 2009

Oak Lawn Library News

Free Movie: The Secret Life of Bees

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will host a free screening of the 2008 film "The Secret Life of Bees" on Monday, March 30 at both 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

In 1964 South Carolina, a 14-year-old girl is haunted by the memory of her late mother. To escape abuse, she runs away and finds solace with the intelligent and independent Boatwright sisters who teach her beekeeping and important life lessons. The movie, based on the 2002 novel by Sue Monk Kidd, is starring Dakota Fanning, Queen Latifah, Jennifer Hudson and Alicia Keys. Rated: PG-13. 110 minutes running time.

Mother and Daughter Book ClubGirls in third through fifth grade and their moms (grandmas, aunts, etc.) are invited to take part in a lively discussion of the classic children's novel "Fairy Dust and the Quest for the Egg" by Gail Carson Levine at a Mother and Daughter Book Club meeting 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 21 at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St. Register today and pick up copies of the book at the Youth Services Desk. Limit of 15 mother/daughter pairs. Light refreshments.

"Guys Read" Club for Grades 3 to 5

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., hosts "Guys Read," a free monthly after-school program for boys in third through fifth grade. On Tuesday, March 24 from 4-5 p.m., participants will meet to discuss and share what they learned from reading a "how to" book. Snacks are provided. Advance registration required at the Youth Services Desk.

College Funding for High School Students

Patrick Kaiser of College Funding Strategies will present a financial planning lecture for families of college-bound high school students 7p.m. Tuesday, March 24 at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St. At this free informational session, Kaiser will share tips and ideas for families who find themselves "crisis planning" for the financing of future college tuition and expenses. Discover ways that you can help your high school student choose the right college, while causing the least amount of damage to your family's finances.

View a complete schedule of adult programs at www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

Friends of the Oak Lawn Library Trip: Lincoln Museum Bicentennial

The Friends of the Oak Lawn Library will host an all-day bus trip to Springfield, IL to visit the Lincoln Museum on Monday, April 27. An in person registration will be held 9-11 a.m. Saturday, March 21 at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St.

Travel by motorcoach to the Illinois state capital and visit the Abraham Lincoln Museum and other historic sites. Enjoy a delicious lunch buffet at the Chesapeake House Restaurant. The cost of this trip, which includes transportation, museum admission and lunch, is $81 for Friends members and $86 for others. The bus departs from the library at 7 a.m. and returns at 9 p.m. Please be advised that this trip is not wheelchair accessible.

After the in-person registration closes, please call the library to find out how you can purchase tickets, 708-422-4990.

Curious George Reading Club

April is Curious George Month. In celebration of this beloved children's literature character, the Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will hold a month-long reading club for children ages 2-7. Participants can win prizes by completing a series of activities and reading with their parents for just over 2½ hours. Registration begins Wednesday, April 1 at the Youth Service Desk. The program ends Thursday, April 30. Open to Oak Lawn residents and students only.

Bookopoly Played by Grades 4-6

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., invites Oak Lawn residents and students of Oak Lawn schools in fourth through sixth grade to participate in the next "Bookopoly" game event on Thursday, April 2 from 4-5 p.m.

In this monthly afterschool program offering, young players read the same book and then come together to divide into teams and compete in a game of trivia questions and physical challenges. The April Bookopoly reading selection is "The Gollywhopper Games" by Jody Feldman. Advance registration required with the child's library card. Copies of the book are available at the Youth Services Desk. Preference is given to Oak Lawn residents and students of Oak Lawn schools.

Library Community Display Cases

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., has two community display cases that may be reserved for one calendar month by individuals, local community groups and organizations interested in exhibiting special collections, handicrafts, activities and creative works. Applications are available at the Reception Booth.

For more information about the above, call 708-422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

SOE: (from left) Mary Coffey, Assistant to the Dean; Leah Wessman, winner of the Davis Scholarship; Beverly Gulley, Ph.D., dean of the School of Education; and Brian Condon, winner of the Malin Scholarship.

SXU's School of Education announces scholarship winners

Five students receive tuition grants

Saint Xavier University 's School of Education recently announced the winners of the Binder, Davis, Gallagher, Leake and Malin Scholarships.

Kathleen Griffin, of Chicago , received the Dr. Dorothy Binder Endowed Graduate Scholarship. Griffin is a graduate student in the multicategorical special education program. The Scholarship Committee recognizes Griffin 's commitment to excellence, hospitality, compassion and service to others.

Leah Wessman, of Evergreen Park , received the Dorothy Ritter Davis Scholarship. Wessman is a graduate student in the reading program and is recognized for being an "outstanding student and a brilliant contributor to the classroom who demonstrates outstanding service performed with integrity and generosity."

Denise Corral, of Oak Forest , received the Elaine Gallagher Scholarship.. Corral is a graduate student in the elementary education program. The Scholarship Committee recognizes Corral's enthusiasm for teaching Science, love of learning and demonstration of service.

Nikki Lacy, of Addison , received the Dr. Lloyd Leake Scholarship. Lacy is an undergraduate in the elementary education program. Lacy's recommender described her as a focused person whose strength and commitment are obvious as a student, academic tutor and mentor for teenage girls.

Brian Condon, of Oak Lawn , received the Julius and Catherine Heery Malin Scholarship. Condon is a graduate student in the elementary education program. Condon's recommender described his "extraordinary academic excellence, a sense of responsibility and compassion and service to others."

Mike Curran of the Oak Lawn Fire Department and OLCHS Junior Pat Kustok.

Students Learn First Aid & CPR

The Village of Oak Lawn along with Medtronic Foundation, Advocate Christ Hospital/The American Heart Association Training Center, Oak Lawn Police and Fire Departments, Firefighters Union Local# 3405, Richards High School, and Oak Lawn Community High School recently announced the Oak Lawn Heart Rescue Program. This was one of the largest community wide training efforts in Emergency Preparedness in the state of Illinois.

Over 500 Oak Lawn Community High School students were trained in first aid and CPR. This program provided the students and faculty with life saving skills that can be used to help the community in the event of a disaster, as well as emergencies in the home or summer job sites. The Medtronic Foundation graciously donated $30,000 to the Village of Oak Lawn to fund the Heart Rescue program.

New Member Initiation Ceremony American Legion Auxiliary

Initiation of new members will be held at the next American Legion Ladies Auxiliary meeting on Monday, March 23, 2009. Meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, Post 854, 9701 S. Kedzie Ave., in Evergreen Park, IL. The American Legion Auxiliary is organized and committed to helping veterans, their dependents, active service men and women, and the community, as well as to promote patriotism.

If you would like to join the Auxiliary, information about eligibility and membership is available by contacting Dian Kinahan at 708-229-2129.

Pappas Greets Irish Parade Queen and Her Court

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas greets the Queen of the 2009 St. Patrick's Day Parade and her Court to her office. Pappas has made it a tradition to hold a reception for the Queen and her Court, piped in by the Shannon Rovers, as a tribute to the Parade and the Irish community of Cook County. From left: Treasurer Pappas and Queen Julie Popp, with Court members Erin Therese Murphy, Meghan Kathleen Hayes, Sara Marie Collins and Kerry Ann Brennan. The 2009 Parade is Chicago's 54th St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Books Reviewed by Annette Dixon

St. Patrick and the Three Brave Mice

Authored by Joyce A.Stengel

This book was indeed the most enjoyable children's book for the seasonal celebration of St Patrick's Day. After reading many books to my five grandchildren, this book drew my interest because of first hearing about St. Patrick, then hearing that there are no snakes in Ireland.But to my surprise, this is truly a good story about Tulla, Ryan and Brian, the three brave mice who helped get rid of the last snake in Ireland. The story was exhilarating and lead up to such a surprise climax that you had to give a hurrah for the ending.

The story theme holds it own without the illustrations, but as we all know by now children need visuals, therefore, Herb Leonhard is by far the best illustrator in the United States. He has worked as a freelance illustrator and graphic designer for more than two decades, specializing in children's book illustrations. Through his advertising work, he has won numerous gold, silver, and merit awards.Readers may order toll free from Pelican at 1-800-843-1724.

Irish Legends for Children, retold by Yvonne Carroll and Irish Poems A Collection for Children are very good ethnic books. Very difficult for those who are not Irish. Since I have a newspaper for all ethnic groups and living on the south side of Chicago, I can't be dismay by mentioning these two books for the St. Patrick's Day Celebration. But don't forget I warned you. You have to be Irish to enjoy these books. Reviewed by Annette Dixon.

Letter to the Editor

Being a concerned citizen of Worth and an experienced environmental activist, I have been honored to assist the Worth's Life Safety Commission.

Our work for the past six years has focused almost exclusively on the Lucas Berg Pit area near 111th and Southwest Highway. This area, currently owned by the Army Corps of Engineers, has been selected by them to be the depository for toxic materials dredged from the bottom of the Cal-Sag channel.

Mayor Guzdziol selected people who have the background needed to lobby effectively to stop this environmental travesty. He also sought out the help of Congressman Dan Lipinski to work with us to locate alternative sites for the dredged material to be placed.

Through the Mayor's relationship with Congressman Lipinski, a grant of $100,000 was allocated for the study of other, more suitable locations for the dredged materials. That report has found 20 additional sites that might be used for this placement of dredged material

In the tradition of the Care Of The Earth (COTE) group that fought to stop garbage from being dumped into the Lucas Berg Pit in the 1970's, the Life Safety Committee has been working to bring a halt to the Army Corps plans.

We as a Village are fortunate to have Ed Guzdziol as our President because he has had the foresight to form our committee to fight what could be an environmental nightmare and he works with influential legislators to prevent detrimental dumping in our town.

Due to the endless time it takes to lobby and accomplish what he has done, this is not a part time Mayor. I know. I have been in the room with the Mayor, The Village Commission, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, and the Army Corp., Village Clerk Bonnie Price along with the Legislators. This takes time many days and nights have been spent just on this project. I would like to know if someone that works a full day would be up to the task.

Joan Silke Chairperson of The Good Neighbor Committee South Cook County

Member of the Suburban Cook County Local Emergency Planning Committee,

Region VI Bio/All Hazards Committee Member

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

VFW Auxiliary Penny Social Silent Auction

Hometown-Murray VFW Ladies Auxiliary is having a Penny Social -Silent Auction, Sunday, March 29th, 2009, 1pm till 5pm at the Post home, 9092 Main St. Hometown, IL. Hidden treasures can be found at the Nickle, Dime & Quarter Tables-Household items, books, jewelery, antiques and more. Ask about our Sorry Table. Stay for the Big Raffle.

Kitchen will be open.

For more info call 708-424-9800 after 6pm. Visit our web site www.hometownvfw9773.com

March is Membership Month. Join the elite, join the VFW Ladies Auxiliary. Benefits include Cancer Ins. Discounts, and an opportunity to help veterans and the community.

Call 708-636-5446- for more info.

Hometown News

Air Force Airman Carlyn B. Elgar has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, core values, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations. In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate in applied science degree relating through the Community College of the Air Force. She is the daughter of Richard and Judith Beazley of Biloba St., Orland Park, Ill. Her in-laws, Robert and Sue Elgar, reside on Lake Drive, Plainfield, Ill. The airman is a 2005 graduate of Providence Catholic High School, New Lenox, Ill.

Air Force Airman Thomas D. Purtell has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, core values, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations. In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate in applied science degree relating through the Community College of the Air Force. Purtell is the son of Karen Purtell of Luna Ave., Midlothian, Ill. The airman is a 2005 graduate of Oak Forest High School, Ill.

Army Sgt. Christopher D. Montoya has arrived for duty at the Madison Heights Recruiting Station, Mich. Montoya, a recruiter with 12 years of military service, is assigned to the Great Lakes Recruiting Battalion. He is the son of Midge and stepson of Henry Montoya of S. Marion St., Oak Lawn, Ill. The sergeant is a 1995 graduate of Oak Lawn High School.

Are you having a Easter Brunch, or Specials for Easter Dinners. Call Linda and advertise your restaurant specials. Ask about the Easter Special in our April 6, 2009 issue. Call Linda for details at 312-624-8996.

Young "Peep-le" Get First Crack at Spring in Annual Eggs to Chicks Exhibit at Kohl Children's Museum

March 17-May 11 All Hatched Chicks will be Donated to Heifer International to Help Midwest Families Fight Poverty

Young "peep-le" looking to get a first crack at Spring will delight in the annual seasonal "eggs-hibit" Eggs to Chicks at Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicago , March 17-May 11, 2009. Featuring a special child-height egg incubator, hatchery unit and a pen for newborn chicks, Eggs to Chicks provides an "eggs-citing" and memorable educational opportunity for children. With more than 200 eggs being hatched at the Museum, the delivery and incubation times of the eggs ensure there will always be new chicks hatching any given week for the duration of the exhibit.

This year's Eggs to Chick exhibit offers a few changes from years past. Three different strains of chickens will be used to allow children to observe and note differences in color and behavior of the breeds. In addition to the common Babcock strain, which produces the familiar yellow chicks, guests will also see rare Black Java and White Java strains, which were endangered species earlier this decade. Kohl Children's Museum partners with Garfield Farm Museum in suburban La Fox in their endeavor to help repopulate the species.

In addition, chicks hatched will be donated to Heifer International at the close of the exhibit to help Midwest families fight poverty. Heifer International is a non-profit organization whose goal is to help end world hunger and poverty through self-reliance & sustainability.

"The Eggs to Chicks exhibit is a very special attraction for children," said Sheridan Turner, President and CEO of the Museum. "Children learn the art of observation and are rewarded for their patience and attention as the young chicks break out of their shells, fluff their feathers and begin the life process. Guests will also get a valuable conservation lesson about the importance of protecting species."

Kohl Children's Museum is located at 2100 Patriot Blvd. , in Glenview , Ill. at the corner of Patriot Blvd. and W. Lake Ave. in the newly redeveloped area known as The Glen. The Museum can be easily reached by public transportation, including Pace bus and Metra trains.

While visiting the Museum, don't miss the chance to take a ride on the "Kiddie Train," which returns for a limited time to the Museum, March 23 – April 24, 2009. The fully operational kiddie train offers complimentary rides around the Museum property from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

For more information, visit the Museum's website at www.kohlchildrens-museum.org or call (847) 832-6600. The Museum is open on Monday from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sunday, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Special members-only hours are from Monday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Admission prices are $7.50 for children and adults and $6.50 for senior citizens. Children under 1 year old and members are free.

Chicago Ridge Public Library Presents:

The Library Egg Hunt

"Hippity hop down the bunny trail" that leads right to Chicago Ridge Public Library! Join us on Saturday, April 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for our annual Library Egg Hunt. This event is for children ages 3 to 9 accompanied by an adult. Registration begins March 28th. For more information on this event or to register call the Youth Services Department at 708/423-7753.

The Tale of Despereaux

Once upon a time there was a brave mouse and a beautiful princess. Their story was told in the book The Tale of Despereaux. Join us on Saturday, April 4th at 2:00 p.m. to learn about this wonderful book on which the popular movie is based. This event is for children ages 3 to 13. (Ages 3 to 10 must be accompanied by an adult) Registration begins March 21st. For more information on this event or to register call the Youth Services Department at 708/423-7753.

Contact: Constance VanSwol, Youth Services Librarian

Vote Robert M. Stokas

Moraine Valley Community College Board of Trustees

PUNCH #243

Resident of Oak Lawn • Family: Wife Rachael and Daughter Mary
Cook County Assistant State's Attorney • Graduate of Marist High School
B.S., J.D., and LL.M. from Loyola University
Parishioner at St. Catherine of Alexandria Catholic Church in Oak Lawn
Member of the Illinois Bar and the Chicago Bar Association
Endorsed by Oak Lawn Mayor Dave Heilmann, Village Clerk Jane Quinlan, and the Oak Lawn Unity Party

On the Issues:

- I will vote **NO** on any **TAX INCREASE** for the college in the current economy.
- I will review the resumes of all full-time employees hired at the college in order to prevent patronage hiring.
- I will strictly scrutinize all contracts and subcontracts awarded for any possible conflicts of interest or appearances of impropriety.
- I will bring our South Side family values to the board room and always act in an ethical manner with conscience, compassion, competence, and fortitude.

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Pictured left to right: Maryl Pinotti and Jillian Pastick

Evergreen Park Community High School Juniors Nominated for Illini Girls State

Evergreen Park Community High School is pleased to announce that juniors Maryl Pinotti and Jillian Pastick will represent their school at Illini Girls State, June 14 – 20, 2009, at Eastern Illinois University. The girls were selected by their teachers on the basis of honesty, leadership, good character, scholarship, and cooperativeness. Illini Girls State is a program of education and citizenship training sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, giving students an opportunity to practice the American form of government. The girls form two political parties (nonpartisan), hold conventions, campaigns, elections, and perform other duties pertaining to the various public offices. Junior Brooke Telander was chosen as the alternate.

Oak Lawn Garden Club Monthly Meeting

The Oak Lawn Garden Club will hold it monthly meeting, March 26th,9:30 am-12:00 PM at the Oak View Center, 4625 West 110th Street.

The guest speaker is Robin Dilorio the topic "Container Design"

All Gardner's are Welcome!!!

Are you having a Easter Egg Hunt, or the Easter Bunny Visiting your town? Call Linda advertise your event, for rates starting at $15 and up. Call 312-624-8996.

Mary Carroll to Address Oak Lawn Kiwanis

Mary Carroll, Community Education Specialist, at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago will speak before the Oak Lawn Kiwanis, Thursday, March 26 following a 6:30 p.m. dinner at Fox's Pub & Restaurant, 9240 S. Cicero Ave., Oak Lawn.

Judy Gonsch, coordinator, announced that Ms. Carroll will share her expertise on the workings of the MWRD.

In her position, she is the District's employee whose job is completely educational in nature. A former school teacher and voiceover talent, she now speaks to community and school groups about the District's mission and tasks. Mary also arranges tours for the public at District facilities and creates educational materials for people of all ages. As an employee of 15 years, she has spoken to more than 750 groups and arranged thousands of tours – all with the purpose of informing the public about their special government agency. As a civil servant, the Community Education Specialist works for the people that she serves.

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Samantha, on the left; Theresa on the right

Two Queen of Peace Students Named as 2009 Illinois Golden Apple Winners

Queen of Peace High School seniors Samantha Grubisich of Oak Forest and Theresa Yerkes of Justice have been named as 2009 Golden Apple Scholars. They are among 100 Illinois students from 1,850 nominations selected for the program, which includes college scholarships. The Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois is a highly competitive program that seeks the best and brightest in youths interested in pursuing a teaching career. Those selected receive advanced teacher preparation through summer institutes, exposing them to the art of teaching and offering them early teaching practice. "Queen of Peace is proud of the achievements that Theresa and Samantha have experienced to be included in this select group of Illinois students," President/Principal Kathleen Hanlon said. "Our community feels that their accomplishment reflects positively on the educational opportunities Peace has afforded them."

St. Rita Band Events

The St. Rita High School Music Program is once again hosting Bandapalooza, a FREE event for grammar school band students with at least one full year of playing experience. Saturday, March 21st from 12:30 – 7:00 p.m. Students will receive instruction in clinics, and perform a concert for family and friends in the auditorium. Sheet music, t-shirt, and dinner included. Bring your own instrument. For full information and to register online, visit www.stritahs.com/band or email Band Director Cindy Gradek at cgradek@stritahs.com. 7740 S. Western Ave. Chicago, IL 60620.

The St. Rita Music Program is also hosting the "Spring into Wellness" Health Fair on Saturday, March 21st from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. This FREE event will showcase a variety of health organizations from the Chicagoland area, and includes free blood pressure and BMI tests. Beat the stress and improve your financial, mental, and physical lifestyle!

St. Rita Spring Musical

The St. Rita of Cascia High School Theater Group presents Cotton Patch Gospel by Harry Chapin. Public performances Thursday, April 2nd at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 4th at 1:00 p.m. Tickets at the door: $5 Adults, $3 Students with ID. St. Rita High School Auditorium. 7740 S. Western Ave. Chicago, IL 60620. www.stritahs.com. Email Moderator Lauren Condon with questions at lcondon@stritahs.com.

Brain Health Seminar

On Thursday, April 2, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Illinois Chapter, with the cooperation of Orland Township Health Services, will present a program about Alzheimer's disease at the Orland Township Activity Center at 15100 South 94th Avenue, Orland Park, Illinois.

This interactive program includes information about serious memory loss, what new research studies have been developed for Alzheimer's disease and dementia, what to do about symptoms you suspect may be related to one of these, and how to cope while caring for someone who has a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. To register for this free program you may call (815) 744-0804.

Peace will host a Fun Night for Grammar Students

Sixth- and seventh-grade girls are invited to attend Peace's spring Fun Night from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 20, at the school, 7659 S. Linder Ave., Burbank . Relax and have fun with art, dance, theater and sports while meeting Peace students and learning about the unparalleled opportunities Peace offers.

There is no cost but registration is required.

Reserve a place now by calling Ms. Rosemary Scanlan-Sexton at (708) 458-7600, ext. 292.

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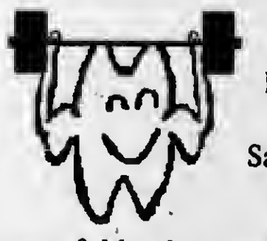

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Village of Evergreen Park Announcement

Village View Newspapers express our Deepest Sympathy of the passing of dear friend, Fran Gory of Evergreen Park. Fran Gory, a long time Village employee and former secretary to Mayors James Sexton, and Anthony Vacco.

Fran was survived by her children and grandchildren and many cousins.

Robert Sapp, son of Rainbow Cone founder

Robert Sapp, passes away at age 85, the son of Original Rainbow Cone, in Beverly area, in Chicago, IL. Robert was also a World War II Army veteran, and worked as a operating engineer for the Chicago Public Schools, plus running his family business of Rainbow Cone, after his parents stopped working there. Also a retired from CPS and Rainbow Cone in 1988. Robert Sapp was survived by his wife Jean, and his children, and three great grandchildren. Mr. Sapp died in Hope Hospice / Joanne's House in Bonita Springs, Fla.

The Publisher, Annette Dixon of the Village View Newspaper, lived in Evergreen Park in 1956, and frequented Rainbow Cone.

Letter to the Editor

We are the owners of Titan Auto Sales and Tidal Wave Car Wash. Our new business would not be in Worth were it not for Mayor Guzdziol. He worked with us investigating ways to be able to afford the $3,500,000 investment now sitting on the 2.5 acres of vacant land that once was on 112th and Harlem.

He took us downtown to meet with representatives of Assessor Houlihan's office and introduced us to tax experts who were able to make our business a reality.

Our intent is to remain in Worth and operate our business for many years to come. The business growth in Worth on Harlem Avenue has been vibrant. We do not know of another town were the Mayor would have gone the "extra mile" that Mayor Guzdziol did to help a business open in town.

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Ask Randy...

Why he and his running mates are misleading voters by distorting the facts and taking credit for many of Mayor Ed Guzdziol's accomplishments.

The Integrity Party is not willing to take ethical shortcuts to achieve our objective...

We believe Mayor Ed Guzdziol and The Integrity Party's accomplishments will convince you who to vote for:

- ★ **Lowered Village's portion of your annual property tax bill**
- ★ **Negotiated a new golf course lease with a rent reduction that saves the village over $170,000 annually**
- ★ **Established Village's first TIF District to attract new business to town**
- ★ **Negotiated North Palos Fire Protection District merger improving Ambulance and Fire service while saving over $200,000 per year**
- ★ **Rehabilitated Oak Park Avenue using $1.4 million in grants**
- ★ **Lobbied Tollway Authority to obtain sound barriers along the toll road**
- ★ **Worked with Congressman Dan Lipinski and our Life Safety Committee to stop the dumping of toxic dredging in the Lucas/Berg Pit**
- ★ **Appointed the Real Estate Development Board to work with new home builders**
- ★ **Worked with Founders Bank and the University of Illinois to create our Village's first comprehensive Economic Development Plan**

VOTE HONESTY, INTEGRITY, and RESULTS

INTEGRITY PARTY

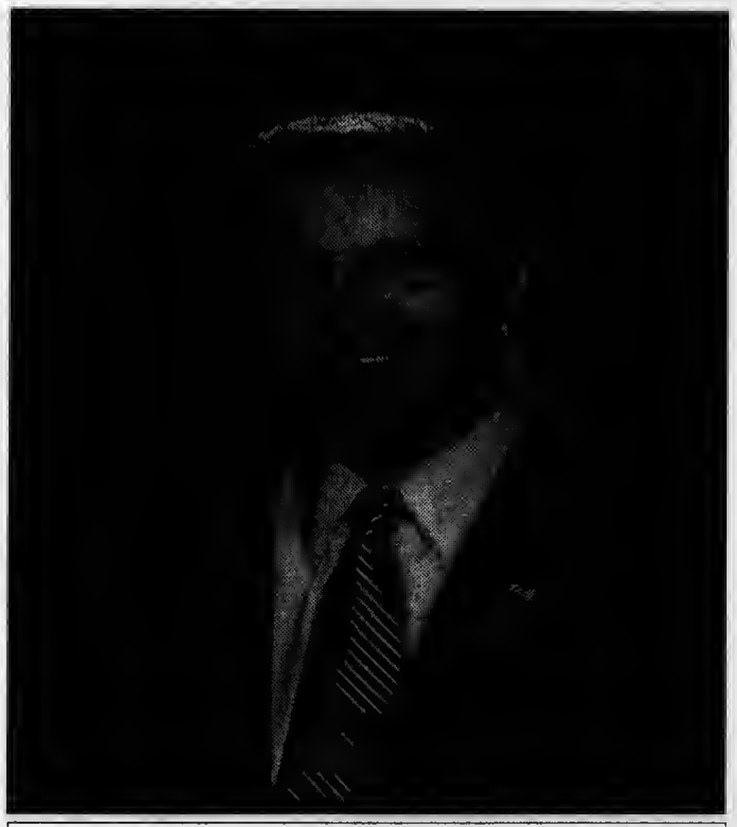
Ed Guzdziol, Village President Punch 32
Bonnie Price, Village Clerk Punch 34
Mike Doeden, Trustee Punch 38
Mary Werner, Trustee Punch 39
Becky Finnegan Daly, Trustee Punch 40

VOTE April 7, 2009

www.integritypartyofworth.com

Paid for by the Integrity Party. A copy of our report is or (will be) filed with the State Board of Elections & the Cook County Clerk's office. The report is or (will be) available for purchase from the State Board of Elections, Springfield, Illinois, 62704.

***Re-Elect* MAYOR GENE L. SIEGEL**



ELECT THE ENTIRE PERFORMANCE PARTY ON APRIL 7TH
Punch #31

PROVEN LEADERSHIP AND A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR CHICAGO RIDGE

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- **Secured Grants to install security cameras at Train station and commuter parking lot**
- **Obtained grants to install ID monitor and radios at schools**
- **Outfitted ambulances and fire engines with advanced life support equipment.**

Paid for by Gene Siegel Political Committee. A copy of our report is or will be available with the Illinois State Board of Elections.

English Department chairperson Mrs. Ginny Murphy (far left) and faculty member Mrs. Marge Mazzola (far right) congratulate Shakespeare Monologue competitors Jessica Sharp, Amanda Shine, and Ellen Youpel after the recent Shakespeare Competition at Mother McAuley.

Shakespeare Competition

Mother McAuley senior Amanda Shine of Beverly, and sophomores Jessica Sharp of Burbank and Ellen Youpel of Morgan Park recently participated in the Shakespeare Competition organized by the McAuley English Department. The competition required each student to perform one sonnet and one monologue written by the famous playwright.

Jessica won the school competition and represented Mother McAuley at the Regional Shakespeare Monologue Competition sponsored by the English-Spcaking Union (ESU). For the competition, Jessica prcsentcd Sonnet No. 8 and a passage from "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Each participating school is allowed to send onc rcprcsentativc to compete for a chance to attend the 2009 ESU National Shakespeare Competition in New York City.

The English-Speaking Union created the competition in 1983 "to help high school students develop their speaking and critical-thinking skills and their appreciation of literature as they explore the beauty of the language and the timeless themes in Shakespeare works." This annual competition is judged by professional actors and directors and is open to students in 9th-12th grade.

Lincoln Middle School of Berwyn presents "Educator of the Year Award" to Ms. Linda Pader

It is with great honor and pleasure to announce that the Educator of the Ycar Award for Lincoln Middle School has been awarded to Ms. Linda Pader. Ms. Pader is a local resident of Burbank, Illinois. She is a graduatc of Eastern Illinois University and earned her Master degree in 2008.

This distinguishcd Educator of the Year Award is sponsored by the PTSA (Parents – Teachers – Students – Association) and is given out yearly to honor the teachcr that has gone above and beyond her teaching ability. This award will be given out on Founders Night, March 18, 2009, 6:00 p.m. (open to the public), Lincoln Middle School, 6432 16th Street, Berwyn, IL.

Ms. Pader has demonstrated a superior ability to foster excellence in education, while contributing to the continuous improvement of student learning and the education environment at Lincoln Middle School. She encourages high expectations and nothing but education success for her students.

While only being a tcachcr for 9 years, she has learned the importance of education for our children. She has instructed and guided our children through thc cducational system. She has guided them along the path in becoming productivc citizens.

Ms. Pader is truly appreciated for her talents and should be honored with the many other tcachcrs and mentors that keep our children "focused" and on-track with their school. Congratulations for a job well done!

How to Make a Catholic High School Education More Affordable

Free seminar is open to all grammar school parents

Grammar school families interested in learning how to plan for financing their child's Catholic high school education are invited to the free seminar How to Make a Catholic High School Education More Affordable from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 28, at Queen of Peace High School, 7659 S. Linder Ave., Burbank. "This program is a creative, timely, relevant and powerful vehiclc to orchestrate financing during thesc challenging times so all families can explore ways to experience a quality Catholic education," said Sister M. Paul McCaughey, O.P., Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Chicago. Attendees will hear about investmcnt and savings strategies, receive information about scholarship and financial aid options and nctwork with other parents. "This appears to be a creative rcsponsc to our collaborative efforts to provide a K-12 Catholic education for our families," said Archdiocese of Chicago Bishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller. Queen of Peace High School is sponsoring the seminar. The day begins at 8:45 a.m. with registration. Prc-registration is required by Wednesday, March 25. Call Carol Petersen at (708) 458-7600, ext. 214, or send an e-mail to cpeterse@queenofpeacehs.org.

Moraine Valley to celebrate Greek heritage

Authentic Greek dancing and food will highlight Moraine Valley Community College's Greek Celebration Day on Tuesday, March 24, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The free event will be in the Marge and Bob Bobb Social/Cultural Lounge, in thc new Student Union (Building U), on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. It is open to the public.

Nick Shizas, Psychology instructor at Morainc Valley, will begin the celebration with an introduction of the significance of Greek Independence Day (March 25) and will invite community members and Greek faculty and staff to relate their customs from their respective regions of Greece. A slide show featuring pictures of Greece will play, and the Hellenic Student Association will staff a table with items representing the Greek culture.

College staff members will perform Greek dancing in traditional costumes while modern and traditional Greek music will play throughout the event.

Participants can sample Greek cuisine, including spanakopitas (spinach pie), tiropitas (cheese pie), chicken shish-ke-bobs, and baklava.

Greek Celebration Day is sponsored by Moraine Valley's Celebrating Diversity Task Group.

Are you having a Easter Brunch, or Specials for Easter Dinners?
Call Linda and advertise your restaurant specials.
Ask about the Easter Special in our April 6, 2009 issue.
Call Linda for details at 312-624-8996.

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Local writers invited to Irish American Heritage Center for international conference

Ways to awaken creativity and work with images will be explored during the Annual Chicago Conference of the International Women's Writing Guild, which is being held April 25th at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago. Members of a local IWWG critique group, who meet monthly at the Palos Park Public Library, will be among the attendees. Non-members are also welcome. Veteran writing instructor Susan Tiberghien will direct this full-day event entitled "A Writing Life / A Creative Life: The Importance of Words."

Tiberghien, who is traveling from Geneva, Switzerland to teach this workshop, heads The Geneva Writers Group. Women come from many countries to study with her at conferences throughout the United States and network with each other several times a year. A teaching favorite at the IWWG's renowned week-long writing conference at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY, Tiberghien is also the author of three memoirs and the recent, acclaimed One Year to a Writing Life: Twelve Lessons to Deepen Every Writer's Art and Craft, published by Da Capo (Perseus Books, 2007). Visit www.susantiberghien.com for more information. See www.iwwg.org to download, view and print the Chicago Conference brochure. Registration is available online. Call Karen Johnson at 312-545-3460 or Sheila George at 708-448-7236 with questions.

Evergreen Park Community High School Madrigals Takes Award

Melanie Michalak, Director of the Evergreen Park Community Choirs indicated to us at the recent Southwest Symphony Concert that the Madrigal Ensemble Choir took the first place award in the state competitions for the 25th consecutive year in the category.

The Evergreen Park Community High School Choir partook in the combined choral programming with the Southwest Symphony's March programming.

Ms. Michalak has been Evergreen Park Community HS Choral Director since 1982. Her students have earned more than $1.25 million in vocal scholarships and won more than 1000 superior ratings in state, national and international competitions. Under her direction they have toured Italy, Spain, Canada, Hawaii and through the continental US, and performed at the Vatican.

In 2008, she was honored by the Illinois Music Educators for 25 years of dedicated service to Choral Music. She was named one of the ten "Women in North American Music: Role Models of Creativity" by the Pan-American conference in music.

Ms. Michalak has authored 12 publications for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra which won the "Carnegie Hall Honors" award for outstanding music education programs of US professional orchestras.

Village View Publications congratulates the choristers in the EPCHS Madrigal Ensemble and their Director, Ms. Michalak. Well Done!

Amazing "Joseph" Returns

By Marijo Doody

Lincolnshire's Marriott Theatre begins its 35th season with the Andrew Lloyd Weber award winning "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat", which is running through May 10th.

This writer agrees with all the prior reviewers that this production is the best since Donnie Osmond starred in the production in Chicago fifteen years ago. The choreography (by Director / choreographer Marc Robins) was spectular and most innovative. Horary for the rainbow of color, cowboy hats and camel packs!

The cast superbly matched included Max Quinlan and Susan Moniz as Joseph and Narrator. Bernie Yvon was a great Pharaoh (Elvis). Loved the scooter chariot! Music Director was Michael Mahler.

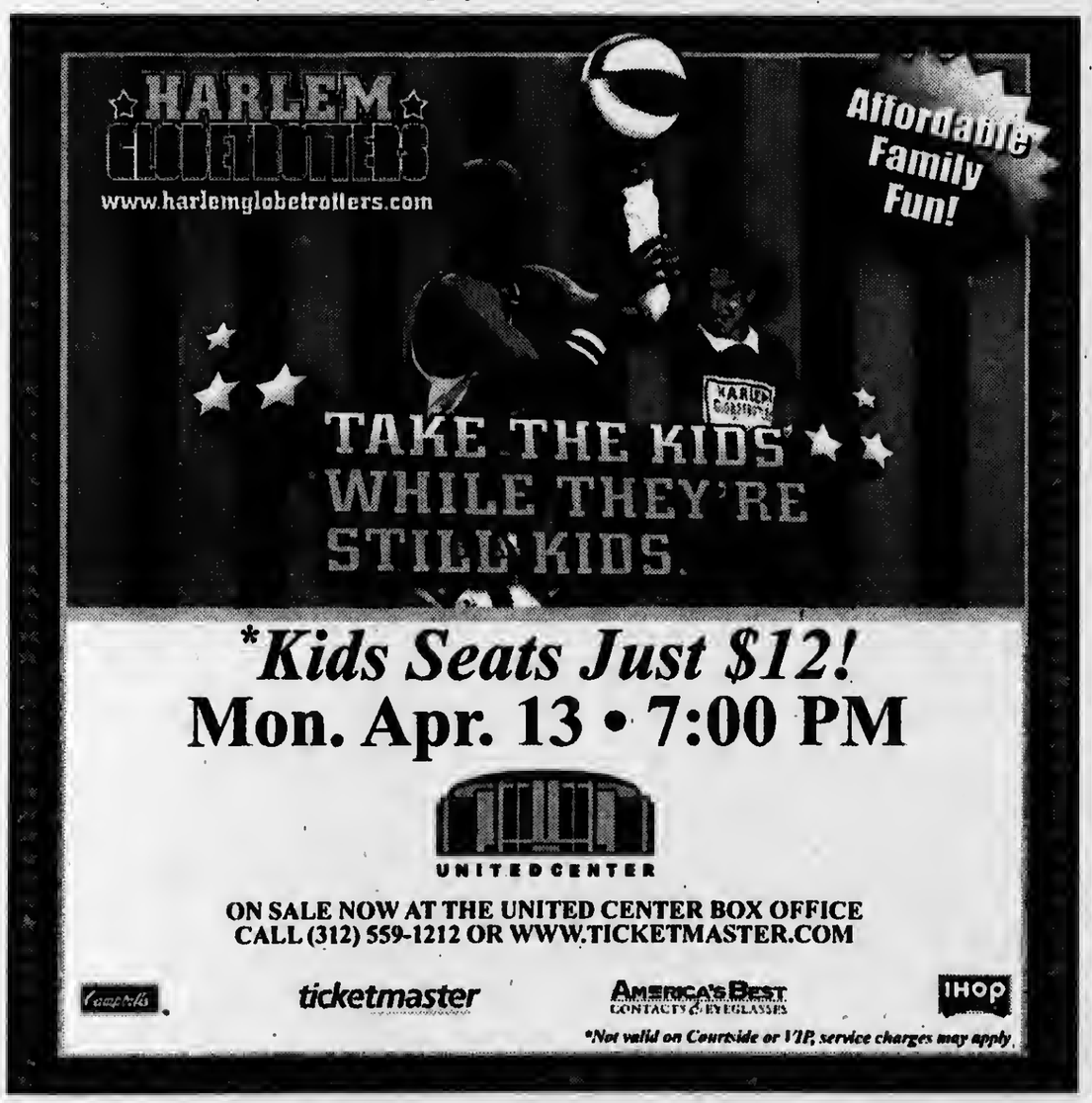
I'm sure many of those seated wanted to dance in the aisles! The production has been nominated by the Jeff committee. (Definitely musical and choreography awards)

The performance schedule is Wed 1 and 8pm, Thurs and Fri at 8pm, Sat at 4:30 and 8pm and sin at 1 and 5pm. Call the box office at 847-634-0200 or visit online at www.marriotttheatre.com.

Oak Lawn Rotary 2009 Scholarship Applications Available

The Oak Lawn Rotary Club has opened its 2009 applications for college scholarships. Students must reside in Oak Lawn or Hometown but can attend any high school. The application and instructions for completion can be downloaded from our web site at www.oaklawnrotary.org. The deadline for applications is May 1, 2009. For more information, please call Kathy Kobak at 708-361-1177. Oak Lawn Rotary awards a number of $1,000.00 scholarships each year to students in our area.

The Oak Lawn Rotary Club meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 12:15 p.m. at the Hilton Oak Lawn, 9333 S. Cicero. If you are interested in attending a meeting, please contact Kathy or Dave Kobak at 708-361-1177. Cost for lunch is $13.00. We have weekly speakers featuring a wide variety of topics. We invite you to join in on the fun and learn a little bit more about Rotary.



Beverly Morgan Park Community Choir holds 10th anniversary concert

The Beverly Morgan Park Community of Churches choir is holding their 10th annual concert titled "To Love Our God" on Sunday, March 29, 2009 at 4pm at St. John Fisher Church 10200 S Washtenaw). The concert is directed by Jeffrey Silhan and accompanied by his daughter, Sarah Silham. The group has coming together to praise God since 1999.

The concert consists of musical selections by classic composers such as Charles Gounod, Beethoven and J.S. Bach, as well as a few contemporary Christian pieces by Larry Fleming, Benjamin Harlan, Michael and Debora Smith, Bob Burroughs, Jack Schrader and Mark Hayes along with spirituals.The music selections vary from the quiet and rolling melody and flute accompaniment of "I am With You" to the classical regal sound of "Gloria" from Mozart's Twelfth Mass.

The choir is comprised of approximately fifty men and women who sing two, three, four and more parts harmonies. This is the tenth anniversary of the choir and several persons have been affiliated for the ten years and are as follows: Betty Kort and Eleanor Hollinder founding members along with Wayne Eick, Cheryl Ecksterom and Betty Palmor are ten year participants.

Many of the lyrics are based on Biblical passages and encourage the listeners to speak to each other with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. He says I, the Lord your God I will quiet you with my love and I will rejoice over all in singing.

Members are from the following community of churches located in Chicago and surrounding areas: New Life Community Church, St. John Fisher, St.Cajetan, St. Margaret of Scotland, Morgan Park Presbyterian. Also St. Barnabus, St. Bernadette, Oak Lawn Community Church, Incarnation, Holy Nativity, Immanuel United Church of Christ, St. Linus, St. Paul's Bible Church, St. Dennis (Lockport), Episcopal. Some are also from Church of the Transfiguration, St. Helen of the Cross, Pullman Christian Reform Church and Morgan Park Baptist Church. Areas represented beside Chicago are Evergreen Park, Oak Lawn, New Lenox, Lockport, Palos Heights, Oak Park and Palos Park

The concert also features Julie Przescke on flute and Tony Koehler is on electric keyboard. Admission is free, but a free-will offering will be collected.

Doody's doodlings

by Marijo Doody

It has just been announced that the Illinois Council of Orchestras has awarded the Southwest Symphony Orchestra the 2009 Illinois Council of Orchestra's Community Relations of the Year award in recognition of the Southwest Symphony Orchestra exemplary achievements. The award will be presented at a later date. Village View congratulates our Southwest Symphony Orchestra on the achievement.

Another Chicago play production is going to Broadway. It is Goodman Theatre's currently running Eugene O'Neill play "Desire under the Sun" staring Brian Dennehy.

The cast also includes Pablo Schreiber, Daniel Stewart Sherman, Boris Mc Giver and Carla Guigino, who are all slated to appear on Broadway this year. Can a Chicago Jeff nomination be far behind? Hooray for Chicago's theatre scene after last year with Steppenwolf and Chicago Shakespeare Theatre Tony awards.

Steppenwolf Theatre Company's next production is William Shakespeare "The Tempest" directed by ensemble member Tina Landau The production runs March 26 to May 31, 2009 in the Downstairs Theatre located 1650 N Halsted St.

The cast includes ensemble members: Alana Arenas, K. Todd Freeman, Frank Galati, Jon Michael Hill, Tim Hopper, James Vincent Meredith, Yasen Peyankov, Lois Smith and Alan Wilder. To purchase tickets call the box office at 312-335-1650 or visit online at www.steppenwolf.org.

The Owner/Editor and I recently attended **Mordine & Co. Dance Theater 40th year celebration** at Columbia College Dance Center. It was a delightful treat. The company's Artistic director and Dance founder Shirley Mordine was honored. It is the longest running contemporary dance company in the Midwest. Maggie Daley served as Honorary Chair for the event and Mayor Daley officially proclaimed February 28 as "Shirley Mordine Day" for the City of Chicago. The Dance Center of Columbia College is located at 1306 S. Michigan.

Numerous dance programs are planned for the center. To purchase tickets call 312-369-6600 and for more information visit on line at www.colum.edu/dancecenter

Also celebrating a 40 year anniversary is an esteemed learning institution, **Governors State University in University Park.** It is the alma mater of Owner/Editor of Village View Publications, Annette Dixon. We were in attendance at the Performing Arts Center for the Pink Floyd Experience.

GSU's mission statement is "to offer an exceptional and accessible education that imbues students with the knowledge, skills and confidence to succeed in a global society and is dedicated to creating an intellectually stimulating public square, serving as an economic catalyst for the region and being a model of diversity and responsible citizenship."

At the recent Musichorale scholarship contest one of the judges noted that she Sue Keller a noted ragtimist and her husband Howard were voting members in the recent Grammy Award presentations and some of those they voted for got Grammy's.

Keller's flyer on **"Ragtime Comes to Harald Viking"** will take place for the fifth year at the hall located 6730 W. 175th Street in Tinley Park on Saturday, April 18th at 2pm. Admission is $20.

Call 708-712-2556 or 708-560-9033 for tickets.

CST stages Twelfth Night

The Chicago Shakespeare Theatre (CST) concludes its 2008-09 subscription season with Josie Rourke, a celebrated director of both classical and contemporary theatre, making her debut directing "Twelfth Night' The production is set to run March 29-June 7 in the Courtyard Theatre at the Navy Pier site. (Note: it is easily accessible to public transportation).

Ms. Rourke was recently appointed Artistic Director of London's Bush Theatre, a 36-year-old company that focuses on development of new plays. She has also held positions at the Donmar Warehouse, Sheffield Theatres, Royal Shakespeare Company and the Royal Court.

The "Twelfth Night" features the following actors: Scott Jaeck, Ross Lehman, Mark Montgomery, Larry Yando, Karen Aldridge, Joel Stanley Huff, Ora Jones and others.

The production team includes Robert Wierzel (lighting), James savage (sound), Melissa Veal (wig and makeup), Alaric Jans (composer) and Kate Glodoski (properties).

To purchase tickets call the box office at 312-595-5600. Tickets range $44-$70. For information on CST visit the web at www.chicagoshakes.com.

Drury Lane Oakbrook stages Curtains

"Curtains", the hilarious new musical whodunit that was a must see hit of the 2007-08 Broadway season opens at Drury Lane Oakbrook March 26 and runs through May 17 at the theatre located 100 Drury Lane Oakbrook. It got rave reviews in New York. Music and lyrics are by Broadway legends Fred Ebb and John Kander (Cabaret and Chicago).

Multi Jeff-Award winning director William Brown makes his debut. He has directed Goodman's annual production of A Christmas Carol.

Numerous Chicago stars are in the play including Sean Fortunato, Jessie Mueller, Nancy Voigts, Jim Corti and numerous others. For tickets call 630-530-0111 and the show runs Wed-Sun.

To receive play information visit online at www.drurylaneoakbrook.com.

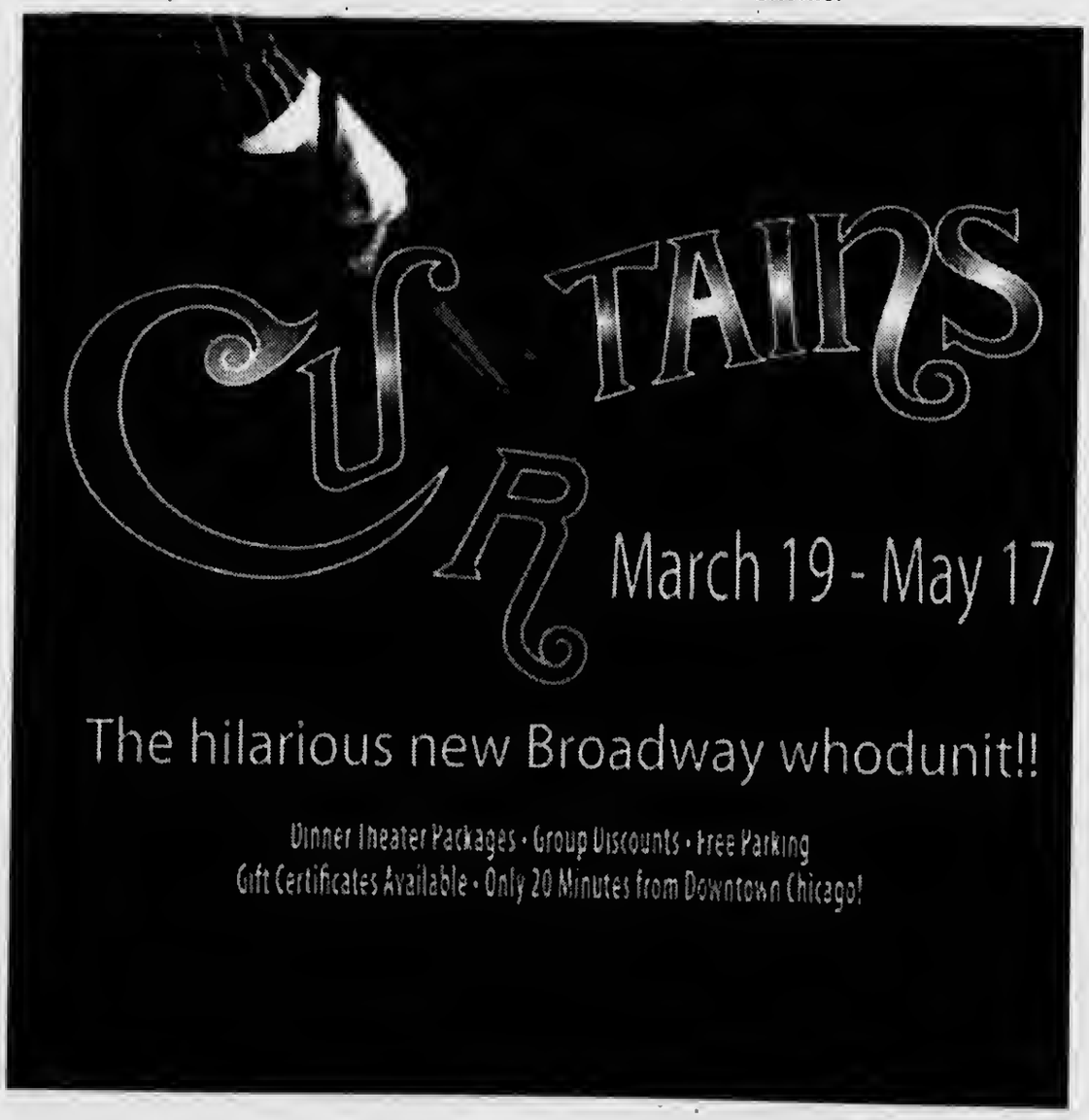
Lunch/Dinner packages are available.

Mauritius

The production by Theresa Rebeck, directed by Rick Snyder, featuring: Anne Adams, Lance Baker, Gary Houston, Dan Kuhlman and Suzanne Lang

Regular run through April 5, 2009 Thursdays: 7:30 p.m. Fridays: 8:00 p.m. Saturdays:2:30 p.m. except Sundays: 2:30 p.m.; 7:00 p.m. except April 5.

Northlight Theatre is located at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie.



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Obituaries

Cole, Matthew B.

Matthew B. Cole, age 36, was loving son of William and Linda, nee Becker, dear brother of Christopher [Lisa] and Katherine Cole. Loving unele of Adrien, Ethan, and Luke, also survived by many, dear friends.

Mr. Cole was at the Kosary Funeral Home in Evergreen Park, IL., and the funeral was at Interment Bethania Cemetery. For more information call 708-499-3223.

Neill, Robert, R.

Robert R. Neill, was age 89 and the beloved husband of Helen [nee Kopisohke]; dear father of Carolyn [Jerry] Linnert, the late Robert C.[Debby], and the late Darlene Neill, loving grandfather of five, great grandfather of seven, fond brother of Charles, the late William [Lil], late Lewis [Jean], and the late Arthur [Joan] Neill.

The resting plaee was at Kosary Funeral Home in Evergreen Park, IL. Funeral was at Holy Trinity Lutheran Chureh in Burbank, IL, and services Interment Chapel Hill Gardens South. For further details eontaet 708-499-3223.

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The Recruit Military Career Fair

Thursday, April 2, 2009 at the University of Illinois at Chieago (UIC) Forum 925 W. Roosevelt Rd. Thursday, April 2, 2009 from 11am-3pm. Over 300 veterans are expeeted to attend this speeial event intended to help our recently returning troops and other veterans and service members, and their spouses find jobs. Veterans will be able to interview with an all-star team of National, Regional, & Local employers at the RecruitMilitary Career Fair. This event is produeed in eooperation with the President's National Hire Veterans Committee (HireVets First), The Ameriean Legion, and the Military Spouse Corporate Career Network (MSCCN).

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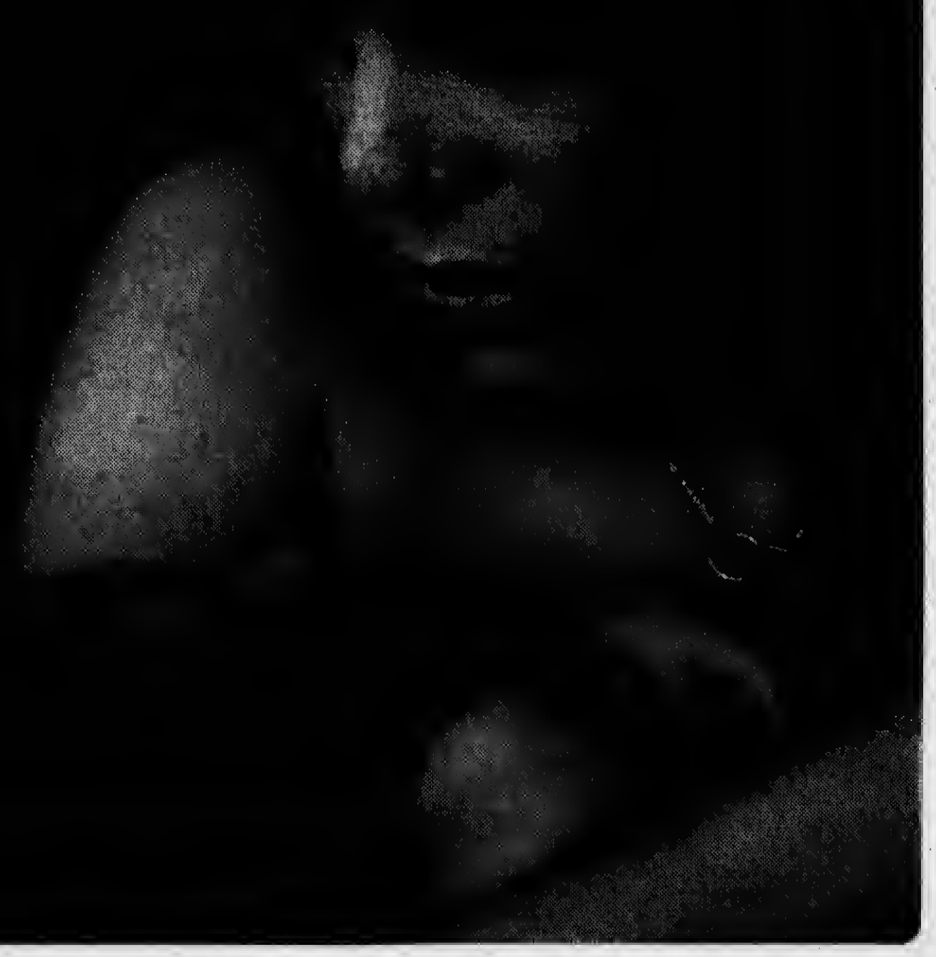

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Far South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 6

March 17, 2009

Staff from the Cook County and Orland Park Clerk's Offices will again host early voting at Orland Park 's Frederick T. Owens Village Hall. Registered suburban Cook County voters may vote early in Orland Park now through April 2. For more information, call 708-403-6150.

Orland Park Village Clerk Announces Early Voting Dates

Registered Voters Make Choices for April 7 Local Elections

Early voting for the April 7 Consolidated Elections will be offered now through April 2. Orland Park's Fredcrick T. Owens Village Hall will again serve as an early voting site for suburban Cook County voters, having processed the highest number of suburban early voters for the 2008 Presidential Election.

"We have early voting down to a science in Orland Park ," said Village Clerk David Maher. "Voters know that they'll be greeted with a smile and it will take a matter of minutes to cast their ballots," the clerk added.

Early voting, open to all suburban Cook voters, in Orland Park. on Monday, March 16.. Early voting will continue Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturdays, March 21 and 28, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

April elections include seats on the Orland Park Village Board, the Orland Township Board, Orland Fire Protection District Board, Orland Park Public Library Board and issues and seats for the school districts that serve Orland Park . All suburban Cook County registered voters are eligible to vote at Orland Park 's early voting site, regardless of where they live. There is no excuse required to vote early and voters need only bring government issued identification, i.e., driver's license, state identification card, passport, etc.

"We are great fans of early voting in Orland Park ," Maher said. "It's been a wonderful experience all the way around because we were able to involve a number of young adults as judges and helpers during the Presidential Election and this program gives voters two weeks to cast their ballots instead of just one day," he said.

In-person absentee voting is no longer available in the Orland Park Village Clerk's Office; however, applications to receive absentee ballots by mail are available.

"Absentee voting is not available at the Clerk's Office. This is why we're encouraging suburban Cook County voters to take advantage of the Early Voting Program," Maher said.

A legitimate excuse is required to vote absentee by mail. "Parents whose kids are away at college can ask that an absentee ballot be mailed to them," explained Orland Park Deputy Clerk Joe LaMargo. Absentee voting is also convenient for homebound voters.

Orland Park 's Village Clerk's Office is located off the main lobby of Village Hall, 14700 South Ravinia Avenue . Along with voter registration and being the official record keeper for the village, the Clerk's Office includes the village's Office of Special Services.

"Residents are able to apply for passports, seek veterans' assistance and learn about voting all in one place," LaMargo said.

For further information or to request that an absentee ballot be mailed to a Cook County voter, either homebound or out of town, residents should call the Village Clerk's Office at 403-6150.

Mount Assisi Academy Annual Mother/Daughter Luncheon & Fashion Show Sunday, April 19

The Mount Assisi Academy Parents' Association proudly presents its Annual Mother/Daughter Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show, Sunday, April 19, 2007 at Gaelic Park, 6119 West 147th Street in Oak Forest, Illinois. The afternoon's festivities will kick-off at 12:00 noon with a cocktail reception, followed by lunch and fashion show.

Several outstanding raffles with many wonderful prizes including class-specific raffle packages for freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors, and many more surprises are planned for the afternoon.

This year's Fashion Show will feature Mount Assisi mothers and daughters – along with a dad or two thrown in – modeling spring fashions from a variety of metropolitan Chicago specialty apparel stores.

Tickets for this event are $35 per person or $350 for a table of 10. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Teri Hall Ferchau at 708-448-9889 or Mount Assisi Academy at 630-257-7844.

Orland Park installs historic markers

The village board at the March 2 Orland Park Board of Trustees meeting approved three additional buildings, which were recommended by Orland Park Historic Preservation Review Commission, to be part of the second phase of the Orland Park Historic Marker Program (HMP). The buildings are as follows: Orland State Bank, 14316 Beacon Ave; the Union Avenue General Store, 14314 Union Ave and the Hostert Log Cabins, 14671 West Ave in Humphrey Woods, at a projected cost of $4,899.

The Old Bank Antiques/ Building housed the Orland State Bank from 1920 to 1956, when the bank moved to a new building. The building served as the main communication station in the Orland area with the central exchange office for the telephone company on the second floor according to village information. According to a 2008 survey by McGuire Igleski and Associates, an architectural firm with historic expertise, the building is an example of early 20th century Italianate commercial architecture. The store was once used as a stagecoach station in the 1880s. The Lobe Brothers then acquired the building in 1898 for a general store - the business remained until 1969 according to village information.

The completion of phase I of the HMP project includes the Twin Towers Sanctuary, which was once the center of Orland Park at 9967 W. 144th St and used primarily for weddings. The restored Methodist Church is more than a century old and is the only building in the village to be placed on the National Registry of Historic Places. Also markers will be placed at Mayor Cox House, 14420 Second Ave, and the oldest home in the village and the former Christ Lutheran Church, 9999 W. 143rd St. Phase I is slated to be completed the end of April at a projected cost of $4,470. Depending on the availability of funds, an additional phase will be added officials said.

SOE: (from left) Mary Coffey, Assistant to the Dean; Leah Wessman, winner of the Davis Scholarship; Beverly Gulley, Ph.D., dean of the School of Education; and Brian Condon, winner of the Malin Scholarship.

SXU's School of Education announces scholarship winners Five students receive tuition grants

Saint Xavier University 's School of Education recently announced the winners of the Binder, Davis, Gallagher, Leake and Malin Scholarships.

Kathleen Griffin, of Chicago , received the Dr. Dorothy Binder Endowed Graduate Scholarship. Griffin is a graduate student in the multicategorical special education program. The Scholarship Committee recognizes Griffin 's commitment to excellence, hospitality, compassion and service to others.

Leah Wessman, of Evergreen Park , received the Dorothy Ritter Davis Scholarship. Wessman is a graduate student in the reading program and is recognized for being an "outstanding student and a brilliant contributor to the classroom who demonstrates outstanding service performed with integrity and generosity."

Denise Corral, of Oak Forest , received the Elaine Gallagher Scholarship.. Corral is a graduate student in the elementary education program. The Scholarship Committee recognizes Corral's enthusiasm for teaching Science, love of learning and demonstration of service.

Nikki Lacy, of Addison , received the Dr. Lloyd Leake Scholarship. Lacy is an undergraduate in the elementary education program. Lacy's recommender described her as a focused person whose strength and commitment are obvious as a student, academic tutor and mentor for teenage girls.

Brian Condon, of Oak Lawn , received the Julius and Catherine Heery Malin Scholarship. Condon is a graduate student in the elementary education program. Condon's recommender described his "extraordinary academic excellence, a sense of responsibility and compassion and service to others."

Area Youth Can Participate in Jr. Olympics Skills Competition

The Alsip Park District will be hosting a Jr. Olympic Skills Competition for boys and girls ages 8-13 on Saturday, April 18, 2009. This free grassroots youth participation programs allows boys and girls the opportunity to showcase their athletic abilities in four athletic events: basketball, soccer, tennis, and track & field. All events will be held at the Apollo Recreation Center, located at 12521 S. Kostner, Alsip. The program is designed to encourage youth participation in sport while promoting sportsmanship. Participants may register the day of the event and a copy of their birth certificate is required. Champions from this Local Qualifying event will advance to one of the Regional Competitions in hopes of advancing to the National Finals. For additional information, please contact the Alsip Park District at (708) 389-1003.

Tinley Park Library News

Stitch Club - Adults

The Tinley Park Public Library will be hosting a Stitch Club the third and fifth Thursday in April. This is an open group for anyone who wants to meet, mingle, and share tips on needlecraft projects. No registration is required. The library is located at 7851 Timber Drive.

Cartoon Characters - Grades 6-12

The Tinley Park Public Library Youth Services Department is presenting a program in cartooning on Friday, April 3, 2009, from 7-8 pm. Learn the basics of creating cartoon characters from a professional artist. Online registration begins March 30, and phone registration begins March 31. For details, please call 708.532.0160 (Youth Services, press 2). The library is located at 7851 Timber Drive.

The Spoon Man - Ages: 3yr. & Up

The Tinley Park Public Library will host The Spoon Man on Friday,

April 17, 2009 from 7:00-7:45 pm for ages 3 yr and up. Children under 10 must attend with an adult. Here is entertainment that happens in the palm of a hand. This entertainer does impressions, has a Sing-along competition, and gets the entire audience involved. Please register each family member attending. Online registration begins March 30, and phone registration begins March 31. For details, please call 708.532.0160 (Youth Services, press 2). The library is located at 7851 Timber Drive.

The library website is www.tplibrary.org.

Alsip Park District News

Annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 4

Grab your Easter Basket and hop on down to Commissioners Park, located at 12600 Kedzie Avenue. The Alsip Park District's annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 4 beginning promptly at 9:00 am SHARP! Youngsters 11 and under are eligible to participate.

The hunt will be divided into a variety of age groups, with all group hunts being held at the same time. Parents will only be allowed to assist in the parent assist hunt only. After the hunt, stay for refreshments, raffles and a special visit from the Easter Bunny. Don't forget your camera and a basket for your eggs.

For additional information, contact the Alsip Park District at (708)389-1003.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Join the Alsip Park District at the Fountain Hills Golf Course for a Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, April 4. A buffet filled with all your breakfast favorites will served. Activities will begin at 9:30 a.m. and pre-registration is required. Registration fees are $7.50 for residents and $10.00 for non-residents. The fees are based on a per person rate. Children 2 and under are free.

A very special visit with the Easter Bunny is planned, so don't forget your cameras. Raffles, face painting, tattoos, crafts and games are also planned for this event.

For additional information, contact the Alsip Park District at (708)389-1003.

Registration is being accepted for the Alsip Park District Girls 12" Softball Program

Girl's 12" Fast-pitch Softball registration is being accepted by the Alsip Park District. Girls between the ages of 6-14 are eligible to participate in this summer program. This program is divided into four age divisions: Under-8 (6, 7 & 8 year olds), Under-10 (9 & 10 year olds), Under-12 (11 & 12 year olds) and Under-14 (13 & 14 year olds). The cut-off date for each age division shall be January 1, 2009.

All participants are placed on teams through a "Blind Draft" system. The registration fees are $70 for residents and $90 for non-residents. Opening day is scheduled to be held on Saturday, April 18, 2009. For additional information or anyone interested in becoming a volunteer coach, please contact the Alsip Park District at 708-389-1003.

Spaghetti Dinner

Friends and Family of Southwest Community Services, a workshop for developmentally disabled adults, in Tinley Park is hosting a "ALL YOU CAN EAT" Spaghetti Dinner on Thursday April 2,2009 from 4:30 to 7:00 PM at their facility at 6775 Prosperi Drive off Oak Park Ave., behind Carmax, on the west side..Tickets will be $7.00 for adults, $5.00 for children 4-10, free for children under 3, if ordered in advance..$8.00 if purchased at the door.. There will also be a number of "Basket Raffles", and a Split-the-pot raffle Tickets can be obtained by calling Mary Pisano at 708-532-1916, or Bob Burke at 708-532-2820. Please come out and join your friends to support this worthwhile function.....

Are you having a Easter Brunch, or Specials for Easter Dinners?
Call Linda and advertise your restaurant specials.
Ask about the Easter Special in our April 6, 2009 issue.
Call Linda for details at 312-624-8996.

McLAUGHLIN MAYOR
MAHER CLERK
DODGE TRUSTEE
FENTON TRUSTEE
O'HALLORAN TRUSTEE
★★ORLAND PARK FIRST PARTY★★
www.orlandparkfirst.com

Alsip Action Party: A shared vision for continued redevelopment & economic growth of the retail sales corridors; infrastructure improvements; renewable energy projects with responsible governance.

Re-Elect- Mayor Patrick Kitching Punch # 31
Clerk Deborah VenHuizen Punch # 35
Trustees: John Shapiro Punch #38; Stan Graczyk Punch #39
Elect: Trustee Candidate Steven Daddona Punch # 40
Paid for by the Action Association of Alsip

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

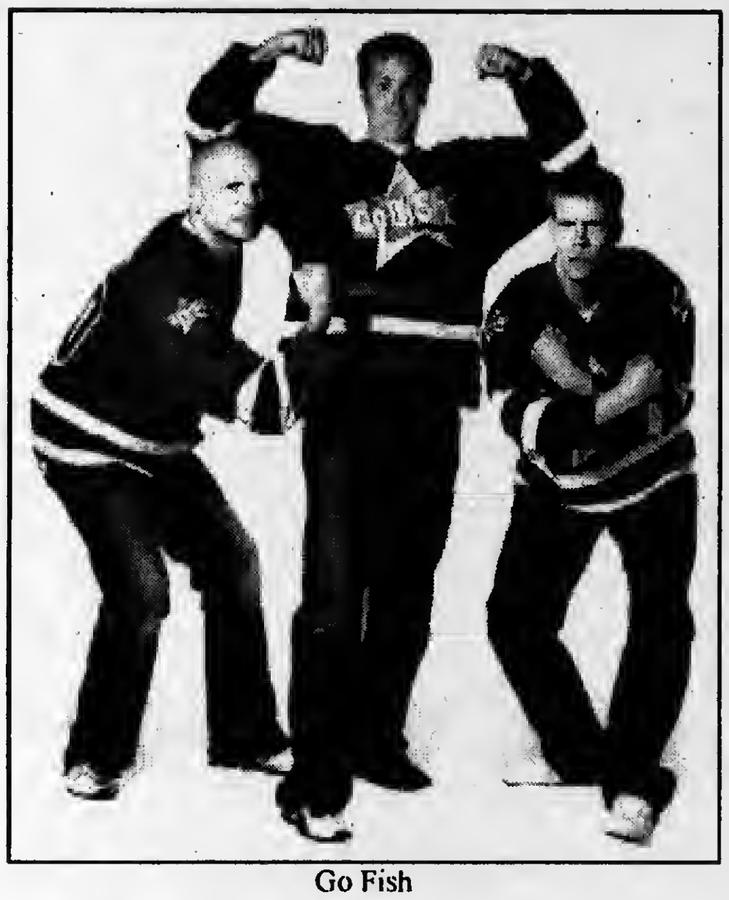
VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 6

March 17, 2009

Avalon



Go Fish

Go Fish and Avalon Concerts

Two popular Christian music groups are scheduled to perform at Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois, in March and April.

Go Fish—March 28

Go Fish will be in concert at Trinity Christian College on Saturday, March 28, at 7 p.m. in the Ozinga Chapel. This group of Christian artists offers music for both children and families, creating amazing songs of praise often with just voice and percussion.

Go Fish has met with success having released 13 albums since 1996. The last seven albums have been geared towards children and families, adding twists to traditional songs while presenting fresh messages through their own songs.

To purchase tickets, visit www.eventsofgrandeur.com. Ticket prices are $23 Gold Circle, $18 general admission, $16 each for groups of 15 or more, $15 each for groups of 50 or more. For general information, contact Kara Bruxvoort, concert and events coordinator at Trinity, at 708.239.4831 or at kara.bruxvoort@trnty.edu.

Avalon—April 4

The Dove Award-winning, Grammy-nominated group Avalon will be in concert at Trinity Christian College on Saturday, April 4, at 7 p.m. in the Ozinga Chapel.

Go Fish and Avalon in concert...

With more than three million albums sold, Avalon seeks to present timeless songs of praise through pop sounds that are both encouraging and inspiring.

Ticket cost: $20 Gold Circle, $15 general admission. No group rates available. To purchase tickets by cash, check, or credit card, call Kara Bruxvoort, conference and events coordinator at Trinity, at 708.239.4831. This concert is brought to you by Return 2 Him, Inc.

Trinity Christian College is a community of Christian scholarship committed to shaping lives and transforming culture. The College, located in Palos Heights, Ill., has been educating Christian leaders in the liberal arts for nearly 50 years.

Passport Day in the USA -March 28, 2009

The Village of Worth Clerk's Office is hosting a Passport Fair in Worth, Illinois on Saturday, March 28, 2009 from 8:30 am until 11 :30 a.m. to provide passport infonnation to U.S. citizens and to accept passport applications. The Village of Worth is joining the Department of State in celebrating "Passport Day in the USA", a national passport acceptance and outreach event.

On June 1,2009, U.S. citizens must present a passport book, passport card, or other travel documents approved by the U.S. government to enter the United States from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bennuda at land borders and sea ports of entry.

Infonnation on the cost and how to apply for a passport book and/or a passport card is available at travel.state.gov. U.S. citizens may also obtain passport infonnation by phone, in English and Spanish, by calling the National Passport Infonnation Center toll-free at 1-877487-2778.

Event: Passport Day in the USA Passport Fair

Date: Saturday, March 28, 2009

Time: 8:30 -11 :30 a.m.

Where: Village ofWorth Clerk's Office

7112 W. 111 th Street

Worth, Illinois 60482

Photo courtesy of Pat Thomas, Beverly Review:

(Front Row) Pamela Cruz '01, alumni board president; Kathy Rogers'95, '97, secretary; Candace Ramirez '02, '04, '05, vice president (Middle Row) Vonna Moss '93, '07; Danielle Dumont '10, student representative; Karen Wood '76; Jamie Manahan , director of alumni and parent relations; Lubna Akkawi '05, '09; Nenette Alonzo '05, '06; Iris Villanueva '06; Jeanne Moran '72 (Back Row) Letha Tobias '92; Tom Moran, Jr. '06; John McErlean '05; Steven J. Murphy Ed.D., vice president for university advancement, Jose Garcia '91; Sean Hickey '93; Marsha Eaglin '87; Tim O'Neill '04; Jon-Pierre Bradley '06, Assistant Director of Alumni & Parent Relations (not pictured) – Jim Cuci '77, Gloria Higgins Dillon '55, Ave Green '51, Ahsan Karim '94, Patricia Morris '83, Gerald Napleton '04, Dana Pyle '06, Luke Schillo '05, '07)

SXU Alumni Association Board of Directors welcomes 11 new members

Take leadership in interpreting and guiding needs of entire alumni population

The Saint Xavier University Alumni Association welcomes 11 new members to its Board of Directors this spring. Representing more than 29,000 graduates of Saint Xavier University , the Alumni Association Board of Directors takes leadership in interpreting and guiding the needs of the entire alumni population. The Alumni Board provides also the voice of the alumni population, encouraging all graduates to be vital members of the Alumni Association.

Alumni Board members promote and support the goals and core values of Saint Xavier University , fostering a spirit of loyalty and fellowship among alumni. They are leaders in events, activities and programs that serve both the alumni interests and the mission of the University. The Alumni Board is an invaluable resource for the entire Saint Xavier community.

As students, they represented many essential elements at SXU. Now, as Alumni Board members, they remain dedicated to ensuring that the diversity of our student and alumni populations is represented by the Alumni Board itself.

Some of the recent events sponsored by the SXU Alumni Board and the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations include the annual Alumni and Friends Holiday Tea, Golden Graduate Luncheon, Whirley Ball event, Alumni and Friend Wine Tastings, Service Day projects, Chicago Cubs and White Sox bus trips, Broadway in Chicago outings, and annual SXU Homecoming weekend activities.

Village View Endorses Mayor Siegel

Village View Newspaper usually doesn't endorse candidates for office, but in the Chicago Ridge Mayoral Election, Eugene Siegel is our number one pick. There are many reasons for this endorsement. I personally have known Gene for 35 years and have known him to be a dedicated person in his job, and an outstanding person with honesty and integrity.

He is a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend. He is dedicated to the people of Chicago Ridge and fights for the bet-terment of the community in which he serves.

We have leaders in our country, but we have many more greater leaders in our own communities. And this is why I selected my number one choice, Eugene Siegel for Mayor of Chicago Ridge.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

B-MAC EDITION

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 6

March 17, 2009

Alsip looking to go green

The Alsip Board of Trustees meeting commenced with a presentation by a representative from (BIES) Bright Ideas Energy Solutions of Evansville, Indiana, an alternative energy and renewable energy service company. In the 1990s the company began research and development for alternative and renewable energy systems. BIES has two models of a wind turbine - the blade turbines, which have been used in the past, have been technology enhanced and are now roof mountable and require less space.

The power output for each of the two turbine models would provide enough energy for the purpose the village is seeking. The representative suggested a wind collection system that would best fit the village needs for a 4.2-acre parcel of property near the Tri State Tollway. The parcel was donated by Chicago Truck.

The village is seeking to eliminate $450,000 they now pay annually for electricity, now that it is lawful for local governments to own and operate green technology. Wind farm or solar power facilities can be used for the production of clean electrical energy, which would be used for streetlights, traffic signals and government facilities. There are possible grants or "Go Green" monies available, officials said.

Photo courtesy of Pat Thomas, Beverly Review:
(Front Row) Pamela Cruz '01, alumni board president; Kathy Rogers'95, '97, secretary; Candace Ramirez '02, '04, '05, vice president (Middle Row) Vonna Moss '93, '07; Danielle Dumont '10, student representative; Karen Wood '76; Jamie Manahan , director of alumni and parent relations; Lubna Akkawi '05, '09; Nenette Alonzo '05, '06; Iris Villanueva '06; Jeanne Moran '72 (Back Row) Letha Tobias '92; Tom Moran, Jr. '06; John McErlean '05; Steven J. Murphy Ed.D., vice president for university advancement, Jose Garcia '91; Sean Hickey '93; Marsha Eaglin '87; Tim O'Neill '04; Jon-Pierre Bradley '06, Assistant Director of Alumni & Parent Relations (not pictured) – Jim Cuci '77, Gloria Higgins Dillon '55, Ave Green '51, Ahsan Karim '94, Patricia Morris '83, Gerald Napleton '04, Dana Pyle '06, Luke Schillo '05, '07)

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Mount Assisi Academy Annual Mother/Daughter Luncheon & Fashion Show Sunday, April 19

The Mount Assisi Academy Parents' Association proudly presents its Annual Mother/Daughter Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show, Sunday, April 19, 2007 at Gaelic Park, 6119 West 147th Street in Oak Forest, Illinois. The afternoon's festivities will kick-off at 12:00 noon with a cocktail reception, followed by lunch and fashion show.

Several outstanding raffles with many wonderful prizes including class-specific raffle packages for freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors, and many more surprises are planned for the afternoon.

This year's Fashion Show will feature Mount Assisi mothers and daughters – along with a dad or two thrown in – modeling spring fashions from a variety of metropolitan Chicago specialty apparel stores.

Tickets for this event are $35 per person or $350 for a table of 10. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Teri Hall Ferchau at 708-448-9889 or Mount Assisi Academy at 630-257-7844.

Mount Assisi Academy Seniors Awarded over $3.2 Million in Scholarship Money

Although graduation is a little over two months away, members of the Mount Assisi Academy's Class of 2009 are already surpassing the school record for most scholarship money awarded to a senior class. There are 81 seniors graduating from Mount Assisi Academy Sunday May 17, 2009. To date they have collectively been awarded $3,241, 900 in scholarship funds from over 100 colleges and universities nation-wide. The amount of the scholarship awards vary, ranging anywhere from $12,000 to two full rides valued at $128,000 each, and average out to approximately $40,000 per student.

"Clearly, this is an indication of the caliber of education young women receive at Mount Assisi Academy," stated Ernest Cherullo, MAA Director of Guidance and Counseling. "The tradition of providing a quality, college preparatory education at Mount Assisi Academy began some 50 years ago and continues today," Cherullo continued. "We encourage our students to discover their God-given talents and achieve their fullest potential through challenging academics, spiritual development and supportive co-curricular activities. In today's economy all students are actively pursuing financial support to help them with their college expenses, and the competition for scholarship awards has become even more challenging. Mount Assisi seniors have always been competitive when it comes to college admissions and scholarship awards – and even more so this year," Cherullo noted.

In addition to those scholarship awards, 10 MAA seniors were named 2009 Illinois State Scholars.

For more information regarding Mount Assisi Academy, please contact Camille Auskalnis, Director of Recruiting at 630-257-7844 ext. 39 or at recruiter@mtassisiacademy.org.

What's Hap'nin at Blue Island Public Library

Library Events

Lecciones Basicas de Ingles

8 Semanas, Abril 7 a Mayo 27

O llamar Sonia Rodriguez, 708-388-1078 ext 22

HAPPY EASTER!

Library Closed on Easter Sunday!

Rules O-Da-Road Class! Monday, April 13th at 1:30PM

Federal Reserve Money Smart Week, "Desperate Housewifes: Navigating the Recession And Winning"

Monday April 20th and Wednesday April 22nd at 6:30 PM

And, Our Old Standbys

Library Sing-O-Long Monday, April 6th at 7:00 pm

Book-O-Da Month Club Tuesday, April 7th at 7:00 pm

Adopt a Hero!

There is still time to support Chris Meskauskas' goal to refurbish the Library's "Memorial Wall'. Contributions can be made at our Main Desk or by mail addressed to "Adopt a Hero" care of the Library. Funds raised and not used will be donated to "Honor Flight Chicago", a 501c3 non-profit organization that honors Chicago area vets.

For information about Library Events, call Dan @ 1-708-388-1078 ext 30.

Kidstuff

Story Time, most Mondays @ 11:00,

call 1-708-388-1078 ext 30 for info.

Tech'N'Teen

Call Darren@1-708-388-1078 ext 28 for info.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

Your Suburban Newspaper for 35 years

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 35 Number 18

April 6, 2009

Evergreen Park amends municipal code

The village board approved an ordinance at the March 16 Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting amending a chapter and an article of the municipal code pertaining to motor vehicles and traffic. The ordinance changes the verbiage of these sections of the municipals code which pertain to seizures and impoundment of vehicles and preliminary hearings regarding impoundment as well as a section pertaining to final hearing of the municipal code.

The sections pertaining to seizures and impoundment of vehicles allows a police officer that has probable cause to believe that a vehicle is being used in violation of the section. The officer may then seize and impound the vehicle either to a facility controlled by the village or an agent of the village. When the vehicle is towed the office will notify any person identifying himself or herself as the owner. The article also allows a request for a preliminary hearing. If the hearing officer determines that the vehicle was not used in accordance with the section, the vehicle will be returned to the registered owner without any penalty or other costs- if a cash bond had previously been posted the bond shall then be returned.

A police officer may impound a vehicle for the following reasons: possession or delivery of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia; driving during or after committing a felony; driving under the influence; drivers license or permit is suspended or revoked; emission of any loud noise; operating a vehicle with an outstanding criminal warrant; fleeing from a police officer; transporting open alcohol; operating a vehicles without a valid drivers license; possession of stolen goods or property; underage possession of alcohol; unlawful use of weapons. When a vehicle is not seized or impounded regarding this section, the owner does not have to post the required $500 bond.

Louis S. Viverito Senior Center announces the 2009 Illinois State Senior Spelling Bee

Seniors are encouraged to bring out their inner "smarty-pants" by signing up for the 2009 Illinois State Senior Spelling Bee, to be held this spring around Illinois . All Senior Centers and other senior service providers, from the smallest town to the largest city, are encouraged to participate. Locally, the contest will be held at the Louis S. Viverito Senior Center , 7745 S. Leamington in Burbank, on April 30, 2009. Local winners will advance to the regional semi-finals. The state finals will be held at the Illinois Building at the 2009 Illinois State Fair on Senior Day, Monday, August 17, 2009.

Interested senior participants are encouraged to sign up at the Louis S. Viverito Senior Center or for more information please call 708-636-8850.

Understanding by Design

Marist High School's faculty and administration welcomed Dr. Grant Wiggins for a three day conference on Understanding by Design (UbD), an educational framework that will be implemented into the school's curriculum.

UbD focuses on the development and deepening of student understanding and helps teachers clarify learning goals, devise revealing assessments of student understanding, and craft effective and engaging learning activities.

The framework believes students reveal their understanding most effectively when they are provided with complex, authentic opportunities to learn. Basically, that a student will retain information if he or she can apply it to real life situations, as opposed to simply learning a concept or fact to pass one test.

Marist took on UbD as part of the school's five year strategic plan to improve all aspects of student life at the school. Principal Larry Tucker '79 said the curriculum goes to the heart of the school's educational mission. "We want our students to become life long learners.

This program helps instill that by helping students see how academic concepts apply to real life and can be understood and used even after they have left Marist High School," Tucker said.

Beyond the training sessions and texts teachers received, web resources are made available to faculty members for lesson plan ideas, peer review and ongoing UbD support.

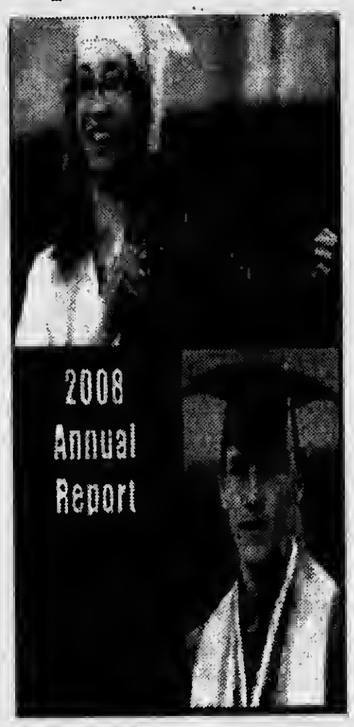
Over 250,000 educators own the UbD book. Over 30,000 Handbooks are in use. More than 150 University education classes use the book as a text.

Dr. Wiggins is the president of Authentic Education and has co-authored with Jay McTighe Understanding by Design and The Understanding by Design Handbook.

He has toured nationally to speak on curriculum and worked on some of the most influential reform initiatives in the country, including state wide reforms in Vermont, North Carolina and New Jersey. Harvard University uses the curriculum, as well as departments at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Celebrating 45 years of excellence, Marist High School is a Catholic, college preparatory school educating young men and women in heart, mind, and body.

Oak Lawn High School District 229 announces their annual report



Annual report cover

District 229 Releases annual reportOAK LAWN community high schoolOn Wednesday, April 1, 2009, Superintendent Dr. Michael Riordan released the Oak Lawn Community High School 2008 Annual Report. The publication highlights the district achievements for the 2008 school year. The report is available online at www.olchs.org. Hardcopies are available by contacting the high school office at 708/424-5200 or by emailing jmalkowski@olchs.org.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE, TUES. APRIL 7, 2009

State's Attorney urges action in response to growing child abuse and neglect cases

Amid a deepening recession and a rise in child abuse and neglect cases, Cook County State Attorney Anita Alvarez and other county law enforcement officials are urging state lawmakers to expand programming aimed at preventing child abuse.

Recent reports from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services show a 5 percent statewide increase in abuse and neglect cases and a 9 percent increase in the six county Chicago Metropolitan Area, according to Alvarez and the anti-crime organization Fight Crime Invest in Kids. Even more disturbing, according to Alvarez, 85 children died in Illinois as a result of abuse in 2008, and increase of 29 percent over the previous year.

"Intervening after children are abused or neglected is too little, too late, " Alvarez said.

" We must focus on prevention to protect kids who are risk of being abused or neglected."

In order to reverse the trend the law enforcement leaders urged state lawmakers to continue funding voluntary home visiting programs. These programs send trained professionals to visit with at risk, pregnant mothers and new parents to teach them important parenting skills and to help them find resources such as physicians and professional child care services.

Among those law enforcement leaders joining Alvarez was Dennis O'Dowd, Deputy Chief of the Evergreen Park Police Department.

McAuley Global Issues Class Exhibits Neighborhood Diversity Project

Mother McAuley Social Science teacher Mr. Oliver McSurley challenged his Geography and Global Issues students to investigate the diversity within the McAuley community. Each student was assigned a Chicago neighborhood and asked to produce a cutout of the community. The class used the cutouts to construct a wall map depicting all of the neighborhoods in Chicago and asked the students, faculty and staff to place a sticker on the community they are from. The map, which is on display in McAuley's main hallway, is a visual indicator and reminder of the diverse communities from which we all come.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Letter to the Editor

My Husband and I have been long time residents in Worth. My sons and daughter were sent to Worth Schools and that is where I first met Ed Guzdziol. He was their science teacher at Worth Jr. High and they enjoyed his exciting class. Later he served our Village as a Trustee. For the last eight years he has been Worth's Village President. I have seen Ed's concern for seniors while I served on the Village's Senior Citizen Commission. He never missed an event and has donated money for food and prizes for the lunches run by Clerk Bonnie Price and Deputy Clerk Lauren Placek. I have worked for over 20 years as a Regional Coordinator for the Community Nutrition Network, Inc. and I am glad that seniors in Worth have Mayor Guzdziol and Bonnie Price as advocates for senior issues.

Ed and his wife Anita enjoy speaking with retired residents in town during these luncheons. I have seen him address problems or concerns Village seniors have immediately upon hearing of them. I encourage all voters in Worth to cast your vote for Ed Guzdziol, Bonnie Price and the Integrity Party Trustee candidates, Mike Doeden, Mary Werner and Becky Finnegan Daly. Peggy Kovaka

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Dear Editor

The Oak Lawn library is an integral part of our community, with a wide range of services. It's not just a place to check out books. There is a vast array of subject matter and perhaps the largest gathering place for computer use in the Southern suburbs. As a former teacher, I love watching students at the library reading, doing homework and researching for term papers — with librarians always available to assist. I want to preserve and enhance these library services, especially in these troubling economic times.

On **April 7th, the Village of Oak Lawn** will hold its consolidated election. Among these elections will be for trustee of the **Oak Lawn Public Library Board,** for which **I, Frank Victorla, am a candidate. An Oak Lawn resident for 20 years,** I consider it a civic duty to serve this fine institution.

And I'm certain I can make worthwhile contributions because I have a broad background in business and education. I graduated from Northern Illinois University with a B.S. in Journalism and spent 20 years in business as a professional writer and editor, attaining some measure of success by becoming Editorial Director of three magazines covering the petroleum marketing industry, one of which was the leader in its field. I managed a budget of $2-million and a staff of 10. I also worked as a Public Relations manager of a mid-size company. This experience will be useful in promoting the library.

I made a career to become a teacher, mainly of American history and government, for the Chicago Public Schools, where I taught for 16 years before retiring in 2007. I spend most of my time writing. Currently, I'm working on a book about education, a political suspense novel and a screen play.

I hope I can count on your vote.

Frank M. Victorla

A look at Ronald McDonald house

On Monday, March 23rd a tour was given by House Manager Kelly Evans at Ronald McDonald House in Oak Lawn. The House can comfortably handle up to 16 families at a time. If they can, families are asked to offer a token $10 a night towards their stay, but money is not a requirement. Length of stay: no actual limit; it depends on the need of their child being cared for across the street at Advocate Hope Children's Hospital. The interior of the building was gorgeous: besides the bedrooms, several rooms in the multi-story facility were set aside for a library, play rooms, family TV rooms, dining room. The kitchen was huge. Every night, volunteers from local churches and other organizations cook delicious suppers, with enough food to feed 20 guests.

The volunteer-list is booked into July (some wonderfully good-hearted people in our community) and we learned that the staff not only manages: they also pitch in with cleaning and readying the place for new tenants. Creating the building and grounds has cost upwards of 7 million; so far, the charity has collected approx 4 million, with another 3 million still to go. But knowing people's generosity, that's a goal that will be achieved.

Kelly began a 5K run thru Oak Lawn and raised $50,000 last year and thru local organizations and individuals helping with donations the deficit could be met. Volunteers were delighted to hand Kelly a check for $2,372.79, profits from St. Fabian's Ninth Annual Irish Mass. St. Fabian Catholic Church is located in Bridgeview, Illinois. Denis Newman, music director for St. Fabian has emailed Village View Newspapers news releases regarding the activity of St. Fabian. He has sent an email thanking us for putting the announcement for the Irish Day Mass celebrating St. Patrick's Day and the announced that over 300 people attended from outside

A reminder to vote for Moraine Valley College Trustees

Robert Stokas wants to remind all registered voters that early voting for the April 7th election begins today and runs through April 2nd. To find a list of early voting site, please visit the Cook County Clerk's website at www.voterinfonet.com or contact them via phone at (312) 603-0906. Stokas is a candidate for the Board of Trustees at Moraine Valley Community College in the upcoming election. Additionally, Stokas is a Cook County Assistant State 's Attorney and a graduate of Marist High School and Loyola University .

Stokas understands the importance of Moraine Valley to our community, especially in today's economy. Stokas stated that " Moraine Valley provides a wide variety of services to our residents. These services include but are not limited to: traditional academic courses for students seeking an associate's degree or transfer credits to a four-year institution, vocation oriented courses, and courses aimed primarily for one's personal enrichment." Stokas also stated that " Moraine Valley is vital to our local economy as it is a major employer in the Southland and that all residents deserve a community college that provides quality education in a fiscally responsible manner."

Stokas is strongly against any tax increases for the college. Stokas stated that "it is irresponsible for the board to increase taxes in this economy and when people are struggling to stay in their homes and pay their bills." Stokas believes that the college needs to tighten its belt. Stokas went on to say that the college needs to be cautious with the current enrollment numbers. He says that although enrollment is at record levels; one reason for this is because of the economy. Stokas explained that when the economy takes a turn for the worse, community college enrollment rises. Therefore Stokas believes the college must be careful not to base all future plans solely on current enrollment figures.

Stokas further stated that he will review the resumes of all full-time employees hired at the college in order to prevent patronage hiring. Moreover, Stokas stated that he will strictly scrutinize all contracts and subcontracts awarded for any possible conflicts of interest or appearances of impropriety and will make sure that all departments in the college operate within their budget. Finally, Stokas stated that he wants to work to establish more partnerships with four-year universities, especially in the nursing program.

For more information please e-mail the Stokas' campaign at votestokas09@yahoo.com

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Pictured from left to right are Rotarians and EPCHS staff and students: Frank Sellers, Deborah Chinnapillai, Laura Shallow, Dave Ridenour, Conner Moore, Beth Hart, Debbie Schillo, Todd Telander, Daniel Dilley, Bill Keyser and Betty McKeown.

EPCHS Staff and Students Speak at Rotary Meeting

Evergreen Park Community High school students and staff members were invited to be the featured speakers at the March 30, 2009 weekly Rotary meeting in Evergreen Park. Students Daniel Dilley and Conner Moore made wood boxes for the collection of eyeglasses which will be placed in local optometrists offices for donations.

Mr. Dave Ridenour, industrial technology teacher, discussed an interdisciplinary approach to industrial technology and mathematics and Mrs. Debbie Schillo, curriculum director, discussed the 2009 Summer Read Program.

Find a non-traditional career during Moraine Valley panel

Career choices are plentiful at Moraine Valley Community College, and it's critical that students don't limit their options by choosing a career based solely on tradition or gender stereotypes.

The Non-Traditional Career Panel will open students' eyes to some careers they may not have considered.

The free panel is on Wednesday, April 15, from 3 to 4:30 p.m., in the Fogelson Theater, Building T, on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. Attendees will meet with students and professionals who will offer advice, suggestions, and information about non-traditional careers, which can include automotive technology, welding, fire fighting, and computer animation for women, and child care, office careers, health care, and travel business management for men. The panel is sponsored by the college's Job Resouree Center. For more information and to reserve your seat, call Willie Mickell at (708) 974-5431 or e-mail him at mickelljrw@morainevalley.edu.

Church services

Oak Lawn Community Church, 9000 S. Ridgeland, Oak Lawn, Illinois, will celebrate Holy Week with three very different services. On Thursday, April 9, 2009 at 6:30 PM, we will celebrate Maundy Thursday. We will be treated to a free meal, eating as they did when Jesus lived, with your fingers. We will start with a brief service in the sanctuary, and then proceed in silence to the hall where a light meal will be consumed. There will be candlelight and you will hear words from the Bible, spoken while you eat. There are no dinner tickets, but if you are coming with a group, please call so that adequate accommodations will be made. The next night, the 10th, there will be a Good Friday service at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary. You will hear the Passion Story as it is brought to life with lights and shadows as your spiritual journey continues. End your Holy Week as you celebrate Easter by enjoying a continental breakfast, starting at 9:30am before Sunday service which starts at 10am. Bring cut flowers to bring the living cross alive. Be uplifted and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. For more info, call Linda at 708-425-6957 or the church at 708-599-4025.

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American Legion Auxiliary Dinner

The Annual District Past President's Dinner will be held on April 15, 2009 at Mabenka Restaurant, 7844 S. Cicero, Burbank, Illinois The dinner is open to all Evergreen Park American Legion Auxiliary members. American Legion Auxiliary State President, Carollee Junge from Matteson and Auxiliary Cook County President, Lillie Colbert from Chicago , will attend. The dinner is $20 and reservations can be made by calling Rona Cox at 708-579-9384 by April 8. Donations from the Evergreen Park Auxiliary will be used to award Nurses Scholarships for those interested in working with veterans.

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An ultimate shopping event

All Woman are invited to The Ultimate Shopping Event of 2009. All About Me is having a " The Ultimate Shopping Event" on Friday, April 24, 2009 from 7pm to 10pm at the 115 Bourbon Street, located at 3359 West 115th Street, Merrionette Park, IL.

There will be Appetizer Buffet, Cash Bar, Over 40 Vender's to shop, complimentary Valet. Admission is $3.00 person. Come and spoil yourself, have fun. Don't forget Mothers Day!

For further details and infomation contact All About Me, at 11015 South Kedzie, Chicago, to call 708-699-5656.

The website is www.allaboutme11015.com

Coming soon the annual Oak Lawn Senior Rummage Sale

The Oak Lawn Senior Center will hold it's Rummage Sale on Friday, April 24th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, April 25th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Wednesday and Thursday prior to the sale will be drop off days for those wishing to donate. Lunch will be available for a nominal fee. Raffle tickets will also be sold and gift certificates to local businesses will be awarded. The Center is located at 5330 West 95 Street and can be reached at 708-499-0240.

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Jane Nolan	Clerk
Robert E. Maloney	Assessor
Gene Adams	Highway Commissioner
Don Mahoney	Collector
Sandra Carbonara	Trustee
Lauralee Conrad	Trustee
Peter Poulos	Trustee
Nora Ryan	Trustee

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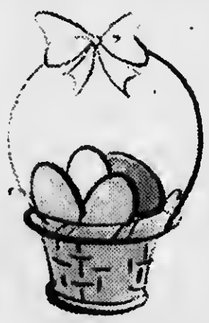

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"Coffee and Talk"Caregiver Support Group

Are you caring for a family member or a friend? Do you take an older adult to the doctor or shopping? Do you help an older adult prepare meals or clean their house? Do you help an older adult pay their bills or do their banking? Do you help dress, bathe, or feed someone in your family? Is the safety of a family member something you worry about? Are you considering asking an older adult to move in with you?

Many people are caregivers and they don't realize that sometimes they can use some assistance as well. This group focuses on giving caregivers a place to come and share their thoughts and ideas on the challenges and rewards of Caregiving. Join us for our Caregiver Support group "Coffee and Talk" on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. or fourth Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. The groups are held at the Louis S. Viverito Senior Center , 7745 S. Leamington in Burbank . Refreshments will be served.

For more information please contact Stickney Township Office on Aging at (708) 636-8850.

Oak Lawn Garden Club 2009 Beautiful Yard Contest

Amateur Gardeners only Entries must be received by May 30th Judges visit gardens June 9th Send name address and phone number toRose Bennett 708-609-8912 or Rose68@sbcglobal.net

Donate blood for those who need it

There will be a blood drive at Hickory Hills Community Center Sunday, April 19, 2009 8:00 am until 2:00 pm at 7800 West 89 Place. For an appointment call Lifesource 1-847-803-7943. We welcome walk ins. Food and Prizes are available.

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From

Thomas J. Murawski, Village President
Mike Woike, Village Clerk
And the Board of Trustees

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But First

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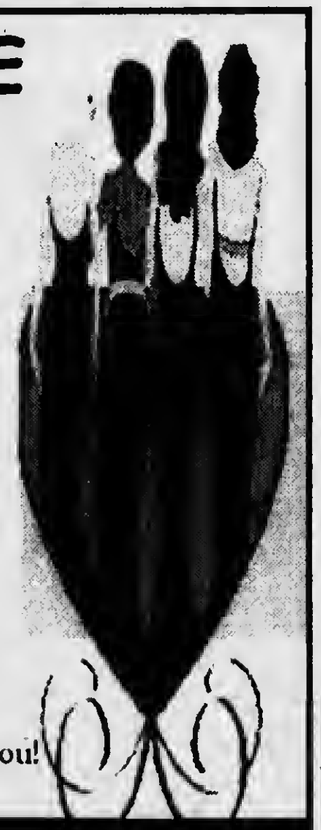

ALL ABOUT ME 11015 S. Kedzie Chicago, IL 60655 (708) 699-5656

OAK LAWN SENIOR HAPPENINGS

Monday, April 16th at 10:00 a.m. Michael Erik Von Hartung accomplished pianist, will entertain. His Spring piano concert will provide a variety of music from over the years, including some of the old standards.

On the last Thursday of every month a box lunch is planned here at the Senior Center. The success of the day is all thanks to local businesses who offer to sponsor the program. By doing so they make this day affordable to Oak Lawn seniors.

This month Cusack Insurance Agency located at 5700 West 95th Street will sponsor. They specialize in auto, homeowners, life and health insurance and also cater to the senior markets with Medicare supplements and other forms of insurance.The cost to the senior is $3.50 and tickets may be purchased at the Senior Center. Seating is limited. For further details on any of the activities you may call 499-0240 or stop by the Center, 5330 West 95 Street, for a LOOKING FOR OAK LAWN CENTURIONS In celebration of the Village of Oak Lawn's 100 Year Anniversary, the Village would like to give special recognition to our own centurions. We would love to hear their stories. If you know of an Oak Lawn resident who is 100 years old or older, please contact the Mayor's office at 708-499-7740 or the Senior Center at 708-499-0240.

Oak Lawn Community Church
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Call for information 708 / 599-4025

MAUNDY THURSDAY Service & Seder Meal
Thursday, April 9th, 6:30pm
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Come touch and see the Crown of Thorns

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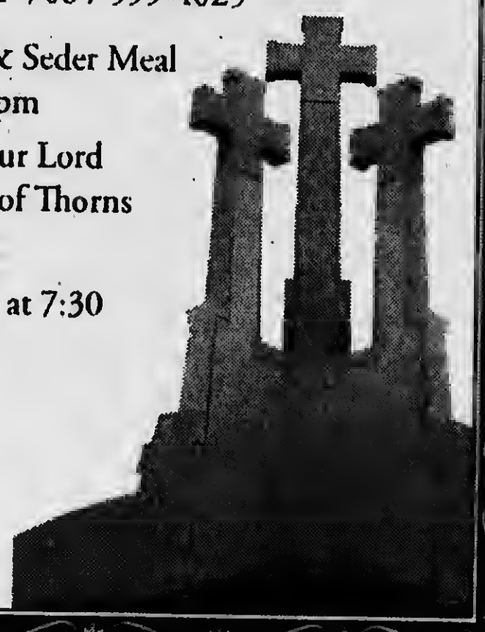
Service of Lights and Shadows at 7:30
The Passion Story

EASTER MORNING
Continental Breakfast 9:30am
Church Service 10:30am
Bring a fresh flower to decorate the Living Cross, if you wish



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Curtains an amusing spoof

"Curtains", the hilarious new musical whodunit that was a must see hit of the 2007-08 Broadway season opened at Drury Lane Oakbrook (DLO) runs through May 17 at the theatre located 100 Drury Lane Oakbrook.

It is a delicious Chicago debut as it is several shows in one. It is a zany musical and a fitting tribute to American musical theater. It is "corny as Kansas" and "life is a cabaret." It got rave reviews in New York. Music and lyrics are by Broadway legends Fred Ebb and John Kander ("Cabaret" and "Chicago"). It is a spoof "who did it" aka "Pink Panther" like murder mysteries. No Panther music though.

Multi Jeff-Award winning director William Brown makes his DLO debut. He has directed Goodman's annual production of A Christmas Carol.

Chicago stars in the play including Sean Fortunato (a great clown) , Jessie Mueller,(a young Judy Garland), Nancy Voigts, Jim Corti all give stellar performances and Christine Sherill and James Rank who have great voices.

Set design is innovative by Keith Pitts and costumes are great by Debbie Baer. For tickets call 630-530-0111.

The show runs Wed-Sun. To receive play information visit online at www.drurylaneoakbrook.com. Lunch/ Dinner packages are available.

Here's to applause on the "Curtains"!

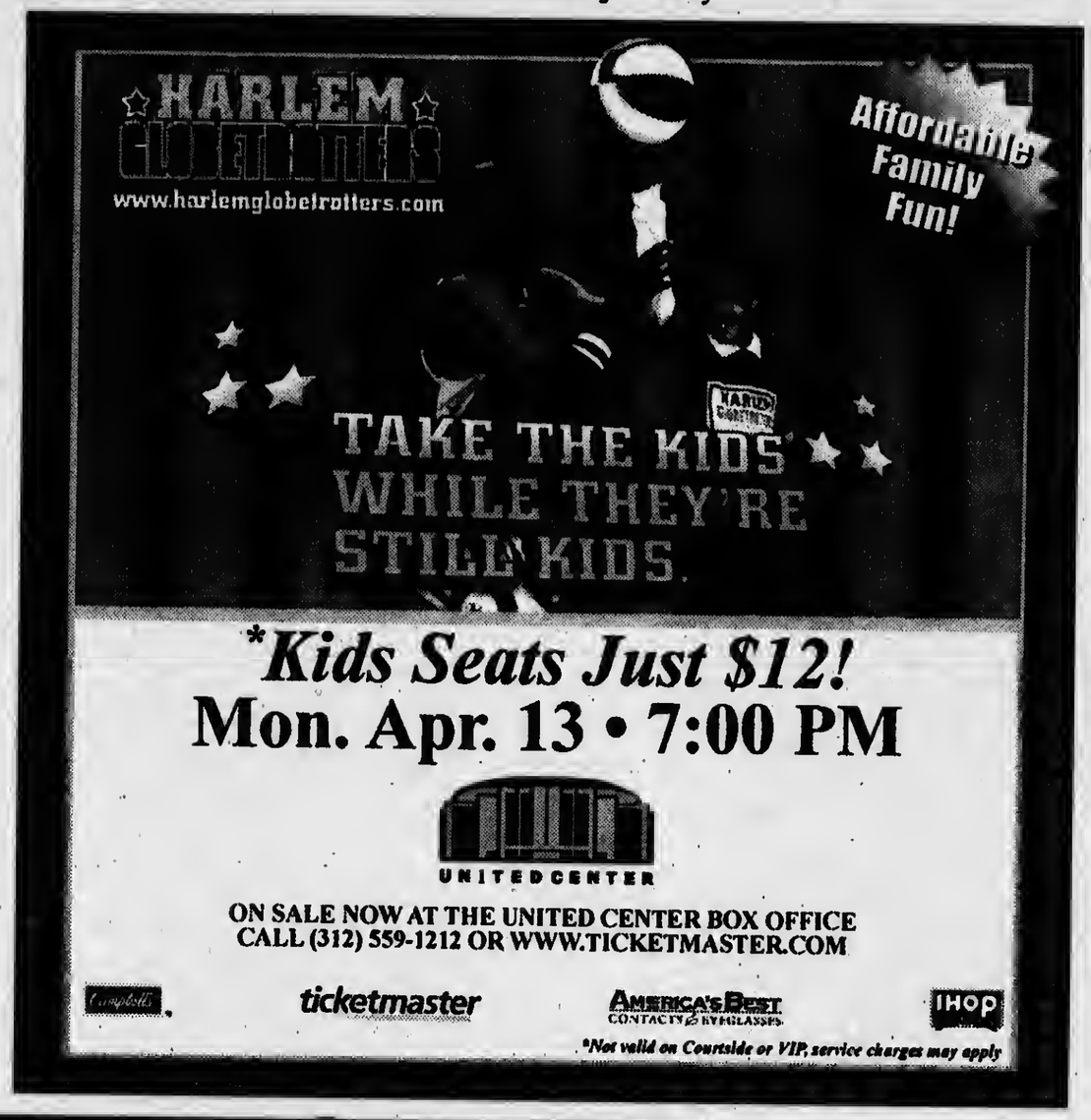
It was posted that DLO's production "Miss Saigon" has been Jeff Nominated. Hooray. Congratulations Stacey. The season is the 25th and for the next selections Drury Lane Oakbrook has posted the following productions in their fine theatre.

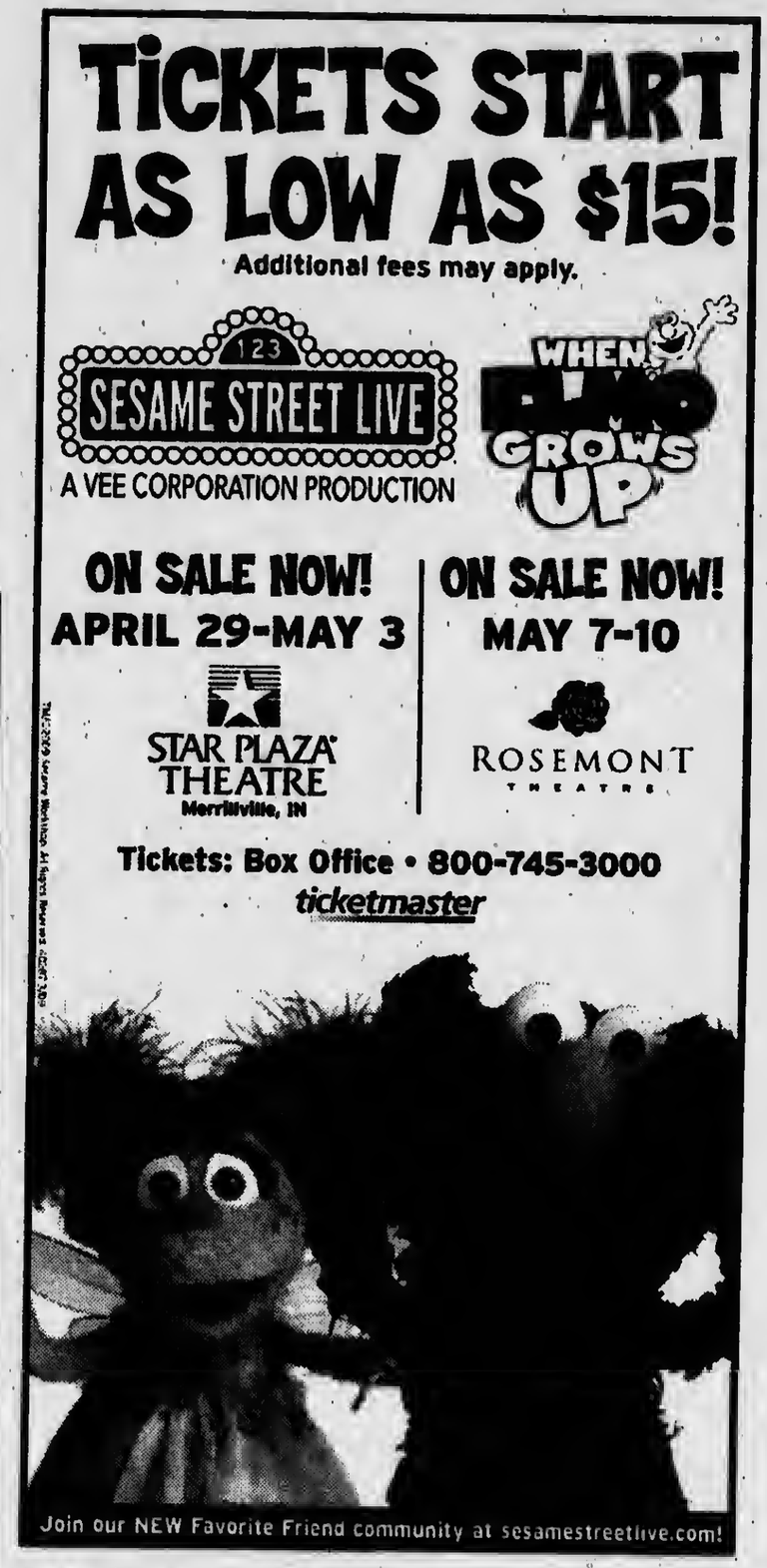
They are "Pump Boys and Dinettes", "Cabaret", "Thoroughly Modern Millie" and "Funny Girl".

The latter two were favorites of Tony DeSantis, the grandfather of Kyle.

Marijo Doody

Broadway of Chicago presents Chorus Line at the Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph April 15, 2009





Steppenwolf announces 2009-10 season

The power of belief can inspire us, delude us and define us. Steppenwolf with that theme announces the following five plays for the 2009—10 season. "Fate" a new play by ensemble member Eric Simonson, "American Buffalo" by David Mamet, "The Brothers/Sisters Plays" by Tarell Alvin Mc Caney, "Endgame" by Samuel Beckett and "A Parallelogram an new play by Bruce Norris. They have announced with a season subscription Tracy Letts Tony Award winner play "August: Osage County" returns for a limited engagement, with a presale available to subscribers 2009-10 season. Call 312-335-1650 for information and tickets for series.

The five plays in the series will be directed by Eric Samonson, Amy Morton, Tina Landau, Frank Galanti and Anna Shapiro.

Lookingglass Theatre Company announces 2009-10 season

The 2009-10 Season will feature in the presentation three World Premiere productions by Ensemble members J. Nicole Brooks, David Catlin and David Schwimmer They are as follows: "Fedra: Queen of Haiti," "Icarus" and "Trust" respectively by the Lookingglass playwrights. Subscriptions are now available at the Box office 821 N Michigan in Chicago. It is worth a trip to Chicago to see the facility. Single tickets go on sale in September.

Kohl Children Museum unveils annual Eggs to Chicks

Presently through May 11 at the Kohl Children Museum of Greater Chicago which is located at 2100 Patriot Blvd. in Glenview at the corner of W. Lake in the subdivision "The Glen". The "Kiddie Train runs through April 24 from 9:30-1:30pm

For more information call 847-832-6600 or visit the website at www.kohlchildrensmuseus.org. Hours Mom 9:30am-12pm. Tues-Sat 9:30a=5Pm and Sun 12 noon to 5Pm. Admission is $7..50 and $6.50 seniors.

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Obituary

Joseph F. Cima; loving husband of Martha nee Kaye for 50 years; devoted father of Carol (Mark) Doyle, Joseph (Abby), Mark (Maria), George (Donna), and Ed Cima cherished PaPa of 15 grandchildren; fond brother of Carmella (late Pat) Fatigato and Lou (Ray) Ksiazkiewicz.

Founding member of St. Germaine Parish. Born in Chicago, and lived in Oak Lawn, IL. His occupation was a Design Engineer / Architect.

Visitation at Kosary Funeral Home in Evergreen Park, IL., and then to Chapel at St. Germaine Church for a Mass of Christian Burial, follows Interment Evergreen Cemetery 708-499-3223.

Irene Rose Marszalek nee Radziwonowicz age 91; dear mother of Janice Machielson, Joyce (James) Sumner, Judy (late Carl) Alcala, the late Joan Madrid, Jack (Tanya) and James (Diane) Marszalek; loving grandmother of Brian, Tina, Jimmy, Jess, Christopher, Aarin, Raegyn, Zachary, Justin, Michele, Michael, and many great grandchildren. Fond sister of Clara Augustine, Angie Gorski, the late Lilly, late Raymond, late Edward, late Walter, late Ernie and late Ziggy Radziwonowicz; also survived by nieces, nephews, and there other relatives.

Visitation was at Kosary Funeral Home in Evergreen Park, IL, and Chapel at St. Bernadette Church for Mass of Christian Burial in Evergreen Park, IL, at to Interment Resurrection Cemetery. For more information call 708-499-3223.

"Memories to Go" A Village Wide Garage Sale

Evergreen Park Senior Citizen's Council is hosting a Village wide garage sale on Saturday May 2, 2009 at Yukich Field 89th and Kedzie Avenue from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. This is a great way to save money and make money, reduce and reorganize. It is convenient and tax deductible. Advanced registration is a must. The rental space is open to EP residents only on a first come first served basis. No advertising expense. Rental space Inside is $50 (table included) Outside is $35 (bring your own table). Deadline for application is Monday, April 27th at 5:00 pm. Spaces are limited. For more information call Office of Citizens' Service 708-422-8776.

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Far South Suburban Edition

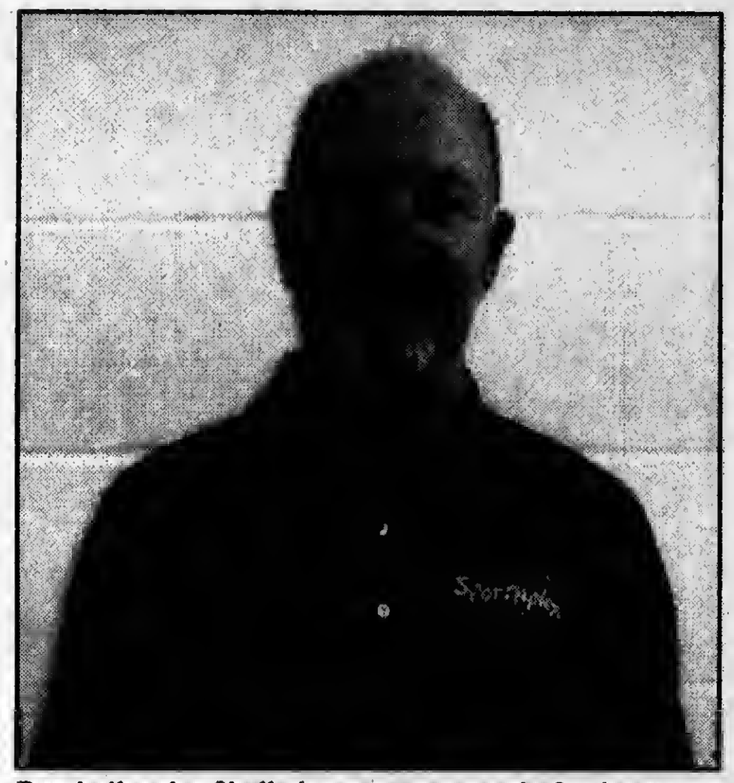
WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 7

April 6, 2009



Baseball and softball players can get ready for the season at the Village of Orland Park Sportsplex , learning from Veteran Coach Dick Conrad of Orland Park . For more information, call the Orland Park Recreation Department at 708/645-7529.

Orland Park Recreation Department Prepares Players for Spring Ball

Veteran Sports Coach Leads Village's Programs

A sure sign of spring in Orland Park is families preparing for the upcoming baseball and softball season.

"We've had a number of people comment on how eager they are to start the season, putting the past winter behind us," said Orland Park Village Trustee Brad O'Halloran, chair of the village's Recreation and Parks Committee. "The village is thrilled to be able to offer a number of programs that help kids of all ages get ready for the 2009 ball season," he added.

Many of the village's sports programs are led by Veteran Coach Dick Conrad, of Orland Park .

"Coach Conrad has been teaching and coaching for the last 35 years," said Orland Park Recreation Athletic Supervisor Quincy Bejster. "Most people in the area will remember the 28 years that he spent at Carl Sandburg High School , where he served as department chair and coached football, girls' basketball, boys' basketball and boys' baseball."

"I enjoy teaching fundamentals, the basics of the game, the things players need to know to be successful at hitting, throwing, catching and running," Conrad said. "I also see kids grow and mature and see their confidence grow, which is great," he added, "They score and think it's super because they learned the basics."

Reservations are currently being accepted for private indoor pitching and hitting lessons with Conrad. Open to boys and girls age six and older, these one-on-one lessons include instruction on batting, bunting and pitching. Hitting lessons are taught using batting tees, a pitching machine and live pitching. Each lesson is tailored for the participant's age and skill level and lessons are available through early June. Costs vary dependent on the number of lessons with multiple lesson packages available. Lessons may be scheduled by calling or visiting the village's Sportsplex.

Coach Conrad will lead the village's FUNdamental Baseball Clinics for players age seven to eleven, March 31 through May 19. This program meets on Tuesdays from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The cost is $68.00 for residents, $102.00 for non-residents and $63.00 for Sportsplex members.

New to the village's spring sports line up is the Spring Tune-Up Clinic, offered for one day only, Saturday, April 4th. This indoor comprehensive baseball clinic will emphasize fundamental improvement to enhance each player's skills. Participants will work on throwing, fielding and hitting in the batting cages. The Spring Tune Up Clinic is open to ballplayers from age four to age thirteen and older. Six different time slots are available for specific age groups with the youngest participants, age four to six, working on t-ball fundamentals. The clinic costs $10 or $15 for residents and $15 to $23 for non-residents, all dependent on age.

"We wanted to offer something to help ballplayers of all ages get back into the swing of things before their seasons begin," Bejster said. "We're excited to offer this all-inclusive one day clinic so boys and girls can practice with kids their own age and get ready for the season ahead," he added.

On Saturday, May 2, boys and girls are invited to test their skills and compete for a chance to represent their community in the regional and state competitions for the Aquafina Pitch, Hit & Run Competition. Check in will begin at 8:00 a.m. with the competition beginning at 8:30 a.m. There is no charge to participate in this contest which will be held at the Doogan Park Ballfields, behind the village's Cultural Center at 14760 Park Lane . Pre-registration is required.

"The Orland Park community is very fortunate to have so many adults who take the time to volunteer to manage and coach their kids' teams once they join the many sports organizations in town. The Village of Orland Park is happy to help create the sports foundation on which kids continue to build as they progress," O'Halloran said. "And, we're very lucky to have someone of Coach Conrad's caliber on staff at the Sportsplex. These kids are learning from one of the best coaches in the Chicago area and we're thrilled to have him on staff at the village," he said.

Registration and further information about Orland Park's baseball and softball training programs are available at the Village of Orland Park Sportsplex , 11351 West 159th Street and at the Franklin E. Loebe Recreation Center , 14650 South Ravinia Avenue . For more information, call the Recreation Department at 708/645-7529.

Oak Forest Park District programs need registration

MOM & SON BASEBALL OUTING

Moms, are you looking for a new and creative way to spend some time with your son? Look no further because the Oak Forest Park District is offering a Mom & Son Baseball Outing on Saturday, July 11. Come see the Windy City Thunderbolts take on the Traverse City Beach Bums. Each person receives game entry, one hotdog, chips, soda and ice cream. Fee is $39.00 per couple and $19 for each additional boy. Game scheduled to begin at 7:05 p.m. with a fireworks show at the end. Register at the Central Park Building, 15601 S. Central Avenue. Registration deadline is June 25th.

FUNTIME PROGRAM REGISTRATION

The Oak Forest Park District will take FunTime program registration on Friday, April 24, at the Central Park Building, 15601 S. Central Avenue. Sign up your 3 or 4 year old (must be of age by September 1, 2009) for their first school experience! Resident registration is from 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. and Non-Resident registration is from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Please bring proof of residency. Registration packets are available at the Central Park Building starting April 13. If registering after April 24, please call for available class times and register through main desk or drop box.

Class for Mom or Caregiver and baby, will teach infant massage with personalized hands-on instruction. Classes are taught by a Registered CMI at the Central Park Building , 15601 S. Central Ave. , on Tuesdays from 10:00 am - 10:45 am. Session runs from May 19 – June 23. Cost is $65 for residents and $85 for non-residents.

GOLF FOR SPRING

The Oak Forest Park District, 15601 S. Central Ave. , is taking registration for Golf for Spring. Get a head start and join this Golf class where you will be taught the fundamentals needed to build a sound and consistent golf swing. Classes for adults, ages 18 years or older, and juniors, ages 9-14 years, are offered starting the week of April 15. Classes are held at Silver Lake Country Club on 147th and 82nd Ave.

In order to participate in the programs, registration must take place at the Oak Forest Park District. When calling for registration, please give the name of the program you are registering for and you will be connected to the correct person. The number is 708-687-7270.

All About Me Shopping Event

All Woman are invited to The Ultimate Shopping Event of 2009. This event is a Mother's Day Tribute to All Woman. All About Me is having a " The Ultimate Shopping Event" on Friday, April 24, 2009 from 7pm to 10pm at the 115 Bourbon Street, located at 3359 West 115th Street, Merrionette Park, IL.

There will be Appetizer Buffet, Cash Bar, Over 40 Vender's to shop, complimentary Valet. Admission is $3.00 person. Come and spoil yourself, have fun.

For further details and infomation contact All About Me, at 11015 South Kedzie, Chicago, to call 708-699-5656.

The website is www.allaboutme11015.com

Vendors sought for Garden Walk

Open Lands of Orland Park Fifth Annual Garden Walk ORLAND PARK ,

Open Lands of Orland Park will sponsor its fifth annual Garden Walk on Sunday, June 28, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Garden Walk is dedicated to the memory of Shirley Fazio. Boutique vendors and crafters are being sought to showcase their products and services at this outdoor event.

This is a great opportunity for lawn and garden retailers, service providers, gift shops, specialty boutiques and crafters to introduce their businesses at this community event. A 20' x 20' space is available for $50.00 and includes an 8-foot skirted table with two chairs and the business name listed in the event program.

The Garden Walk will feature a tour of several outstanding residential gardens in Orland Park . The day will begin at the Orland Park Civic Center , 14750 South Ravinia Avenue , where attendees can enjoy refreshments and music, shop the outdoor boutiques and get gardening tips from the pros. Bus service will be available to tour the gardens.

To obtain an application for booth space or for more information, please call 708/403-6145.

Church in Tinley holds film night

Family Harvest Church will host a "Community Movie Night"Thursday, April 16th at 7:15 PM, FHC invites the Community to a special showing of the highly praised movie: "FIREPROOF" starring Kirk Cameron. Free Admission to everyone - Bring the whole family! Separate movie for the kids – Childcare provided for your little ones. (18500 92nd Avenue, Tinley Park • 708•614•6000)

Also, beginning April 27th a 6-week course will also be offered called, "Fireproof Your Marriage." Call for more details on both of these exciting and life-changing events

Letter to the Editor

Letter to the Editor:The Village of Orland Park Recreation Department's High School Recreation Advisory Committee extends its sincere thanks to everyone that donated to the group's recent collection for the South Suburban Humane Society.

The high school members of the committee packed more than 25 boxes of donated pet supplies and more than five bags of newspapers. More than $400 in cash and gift cards were donated too.

The South Suburban Humane Society was very appreciative of everything donated by the Orland Park community, the Village of Orland Park employees and our friends at Petco.These very generous donations will be used to care for the helpless animals that reside at the South Suburban Humane Society.

Orland Park 's committee members have volunteered with the animals at the society and each is so loving, they wanted to take them all home. As we offer our thanks, we ask that everyone remember the animals at the South Suburban Humane Society and if you're looking for a pet, that's a great place to start.

Adopting rescued animals and making them a part of your family can be very rewarding. The love and affection that these animals show will surely touch your heart.Again, thank you to everyone who helped to make the Village of Orland Park Recreation Department's High School Recreation Committee collection for the South Suburban Humane Society such an outstanding success.

Village of Orland Park Recreation Department Stephanie Simpson, Program Supervisor Janine Hozzian,Teen Coordinatorand the members of the High School Recreation Advisory Committee.

Women's History Month Celebrated at Mount Assisi Academy

Visiting Business Executives Share Success Stories with Mount Assisi Seniors

Mount Assisi Academy senior Ali Jablonsky (Garfield Ridge) has been a Girl Scout since first grade and has worked her way up to the rank of Senior Girl Scout.

As such, Ali has participated in the organization's ***Girl Scout Camp CEO*** where she met and consequently maintained mentor relationships with some of the Chicago business community's top women executives. Three of Ali's mentors visited Mount Assisi Academy Wednesday March 25, 2009 to talk with members of the Senior Class about achieving personal and professional success in today's world.

Yasmin Bates-Brown, executive vice president at Harris Bank; Jill Wine-Banks, a management consultant for F&H Solutions Group; and Marilyn Lissner, executive director for Cushman & Wakefield took time out from their busy schedules to share insights and answer questions regarding a diverse array of topics – including their educational paths; where they started their professional careers; and how they balance personal and professional challenges.

Ms. Bates-Brown noted that Mount Assisi Academy was "an oasis in the midst of everything," urging students to take full advantage of the campus-like setting of the school and its challenging academics to build a solid educational base for their future. She also noted the importance of "focusing on the positive aspects of giving back to the community. When you do," Bates-Brown continued, "miracles happen."

Orland Park Cub Scout Pack 383 Celebrates Blue & Gold

Orland Park Cub Scout Pack 383 hosted its annual Blue and Gold Banquet at Orland Chateau on March 14, 2009. During February and March, packs across the country gather to celebrate the anniversary of scouting and to advance Cub Scouts to the next level of scouting

"Pack 383's Blue and Gold Banquet is a special time for all of our scout families. We're graduating our second year Webelos onto Boy Scouts and each of the younger scouts moves up to the next level," said Pack 383 Cubmaster Gerry Klotz. Each of the six graduating Webelos also received the Arrow of Light Award at the ceremony.

Pack 383 serves Cub Scouts in first through fifth grades from Orland Park, Orland Hills and Tinley Park . The pack will hold its spring round up for parents on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 109 of the Franklin Loebe Center , 14650 South Ravinia Avenue . Because of space limitations, parents are encouraged to attend without their children. Boys who will be in kindergarten through fourth grade in the fall of 2009 are invited to join Cub Scouts.

Members of Webelos Den #1, from Orland Park Cub Scout Pack 383, graduated at the pack's Blue and Gold Banquet. Graduating scouts included (l to r) Marco Babic, Kyle Wiczek, Jeffrey Rybak, Jakob Marolis, Andrew Rich and William Morales. John Rich (rear) served as the boys' den leader for five years.

Graduating Webelos Den #1, from Orland Park Cub Scout Pack 383, prepare to present colors at the pack's annual Blue and Gold Banquet held at Orland Chateau on March 14.

Alsip Action Party: A shared vision for continued redevelopment & economic growth of the retail sales corridors; infrastructure improvements; renewable energy projects with responsible governance.

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Clerk Deborah VenHuizen Punch # **35**
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South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 7 April 6, 2009

Chicago Ridge hears Aldi's presentation

Michael Mallon, Presid-ent of Mallon and Associates Inc., a real estate develop-ment firm, addressed the village board at the March 17 Chicago Ridge Board of Trustees meeting. Mallon was seeking a business license to construct an Aldi grocery store on the former Bennigans site at 95th St and Ridgeland Ave on an out lot of the Westfield Mall.

Aldi currently has a presence in Chicago Ridge at 10641 Harlem Avenue and has two other stores within a three-mile radius of the proposed site. Artist renderings were presented which would be more modern than the other locations. Aldi is committed to altering the design and facade to project what the village would like, Mallon said. The operation of this store would reduce sales by approximately 20 percent at the Harlem Ave store, and the 95th St and Ridgeland Ave. site would generate an estimated $100,000 in village sales tax revenue. Aldi's would also be paying real estate taxes on this property.

Officials, however, are not that interested in a discount grocery store at this location and feel that the 7,000 square foot store would reduce the visibility of the mall. They feel that this site is better suited for a restaurant. The issue was tabled until the next board meeting so more information may be made available regarding the potential benefits an Aldi's would have at this site.

Worth Park District Seniors are on the go

The Worth Park District Senior Lunch Bunch is traveling to new and exciting restaurants this spring/ summer. Fee is $8 for Residents, $12 for Non-Residents. Explore new places with new friends! Please register one week prior to trip! The schedule is as follows: Trip Schedule: Wednesday's April 22 10:30am-2pm: Bass Pro Shop and Fish Restaurant May 27th: Manny's Deli in Chicago June 24th :Cheesecake Factory in Oak Brook.

The Worth Park District hosts a monthly Senior Luncheon that includes a ticket for a door prize, Bingo and homemade lunch and dessert. Fee is $5 if you preregister, $7 at the door. The next lunch will be Wed, April 15th from 11am until 1pm. Luncheon is held at the Terrace Centre, 11500 s Beloit, 3 blocks West of Harlem Ave. Ingalls Hospital will be on hand to discuss "Stress Management". The discussion is free, but you must register.

Trips: The Worth Park District offers a variety of trips throughout the spring. Travel to Shipshewana Flea Market for a special extended holiday trip on Monday, May 25th from 8am-9pm, Experience a Haunted historic location and the history of the location on Sat, May 17th as we visit Bachelors Grove, Learn about the History of Worth at our own bus tour of Worth on Wed, May 20th from 9-11am. Seats are limited. Please register early by calling 708 448 7080.

Steppenwolf Theatre presents The Tempest

Steppenwolf Theatre Presents The Tempest by William Shakespeare, directed by ensemble member Tina Landau – playing until May 31, 2009 in Steppenwolf's Downstairs Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St. The Tempest features ensemble members Alana Arenas, K. Todd Freeman, Frank Galati, Jon Michael Hill, Tim Hopper, James Vincent Meredith, Yasen Peyankov, Lois Smith and Alan Wilder with Eric James Casady, Miles Fletcher, Stephen Louis Grush, Emma Rosenthal and Craig Spidle.

In Shakespeare's final work, Prospero is exiled to an enchanted island where he harnesses the powers of magic and masters the spirits that dwell there. His desire for revenge drives him to conjure a mighty storm, trapping his enemies on the island.

In our first-ever Shakespeare production, Steppenwolf ensemble member Tina Landau re-imagines this magical tale of art, freedom and the transformative power of forgiveness. Ensemble member Tina Landau most recently directed Steppenwolf's 2008 production of Superior Donuts by ensemble member Tracy Letts. Other Steppenwolf directing credits include The Diary of Anne Frank, Cherry Orchard, The Time of Your Life (also Seattle Rep, A.C.T.), Theatrical Essays, Maria Arndt, The Ballad of Little Jo, The Berlin Circle, Time to Burn, and her own play, Space (also NY's Public Theater, Mark Taper Forum).

Cyber Safety Day at Moraine Valley Community College

Internet safety planning for Chicago and suburban school districts will be held at Moraine Valley Community College on Tuesday, April 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Staff, faculty and administration from kindergarten through grade 12 will be attending. The Learning Technology Center 1 Central in collaboration with the Center for System Security and Information Assurance (CSSIA) at Moraine Valley is hosting the full day event.

Session topics include community awareness on Internet safety issues, Internet safety education curriculum and an overview of Illinois Public Act 095-0869, a state law which covers the aforementioned. Resources will be available for students, parents and teachers to learn about keeping children safe when using the Internet. Sarah Migas, from the Illinois Attorney General's High Tech Crimes Bureau, will be the luncheon keynote speaker. The event will be hosted on Moraine Valley's campus in the Fogelson Theater in the T Building, 9000 W. College Pkwy. in Palos Hills. For more information go to http://www.ltc1c.k12.il.us/ or call Maria Creevy at (630) 281-5892

Chicago Ridge Library introduces programs

The Chicago Ridge Public Library, 10400 S. Oxford, is hosting antique appraiser, Rex Newell on Monday, April 13th at 7:00 p.m. **Rex Newell** will show us **What's Hot** and **What's Not** in antique trends. Bring two items, but depending on attendance, you may only get one item appraised. No firearms, furniture, Asian or Native American artifacts. Rex's specialty is: art, timepieces and coins. There maybe a fortune in your attic!

"The Tomato Lady" on Thursday, April 16th at 7:00 p.m. Aggie Nehmzow, better known as the Tomato Lady, will teach us all about heirloom tomatoes, their history, legend and lore. Aggie will offer growing tips for making the most out of even the smallest garden.

Resume Writing Workshop on Saturday, April 18th at 10:00 a.m. Bring your resume and learn how to make it a powerful job hunting tool! Students looking for summer work can also attend this free program.

Quilting Block of the Month on Sunday, April 19th from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Join us once a month for a demonstration on how to piece and assemble quilt blocks. No machines, cutting, or sewing during these free sessions, Block of the Month is strictly instructional.

Call the library at 423-7753 to reserve your seat with the first three mentioned programs.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

B-MAC EDITION

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 7

April 6, 2009

Midlothian Library presents their program

Candy Egg Hunt Ages 4-12
Friday, April 10th at 9AM

Come hunt for eggs with candy inside! Advance registration required. Space is limited. No phone registrations.

.Create your own Chinese Scroll
Ages 4-12

Wednesday, April 15th @ 6:30PM Join us as guest Artist Toni Ruppert read's Amy Tan's story of Sagwa theChinese Siamese Cat. Afterward Ruppert will show participants how to make their own Chinese scrolls.Advance registration required. Space is limited.

ChinaTown Bus Tour

Saturday, April 25th at 9AM Bus will depart Acorn Public Library's parking lot. Advance registration is required. Phone 708/ 687-3700 for details.

Computer Class

Saturday, April 18th at 9AM. Learn the basics of using a computer. Please register in advance. Job Hunters Network, Tues, April 7th and 21st, from 1-3PM Give your search a boost.

April Story Times

Ages 3 and under story time is Tuesdays at 10AM.

Ages 4 and up story time is Wednesdays at 6:45PM.

Note: Tuesday April 28th is the last day for story time until the Summer Reading Program begins.

Knit Wits knitting group meets every Wednesday at 10AM.

MetroSouth Medical Center also has pie contests

Judges at MetroSouth Medical Center's annual pie contest included (top left to bottom right) Alsip Trustee Kevin Michaels, MetroSouth Medical Center CEO Arnie Kimmel, MetroSouth Medical Center staff member Chris Skalnik, 10-year old Vinny Martin of Alsip and hospital volunteer Mary Freedom. Proceeds from the event were donated to buy supplies for Martin's "Forever Memories" scrapbook kits, a project he created to help children and parents with cancer capture treasured times together. The partnership with Martin is just one of the many ways MetroSouth Medical Center, formerly St. Francis Hospital & Health Center, has expanded services, technologies and community outreach initiatives since its rededication in July 2008.

Sporting Events Make for a Busy Southland Summer

This year, the Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) and its partner municipalities, park districts and sports venues have joined together to bring a number of new and returning sporting events to the south and southwest suburban region. Each of these events is expected to result in overnight stays in the Chicago Southland, positively contributing to the local and state economies through hotel/motel taxes and retail sales taxes collected from the visitors to Southland communities.

"Sporting events are great for tourism in the Chicago Southland region as they typically bring greater numbers of visitors than other types of group business," said Jim Garrett, CDME, President/CEO of the Chicago Southland CVB. "Entire families travel together to watch their child and siblings compete, and often grandparents, aunts and uncles, and other family members will join in the fun."

"These larger groups result in more hotel rooms being booked, larger groups at area restaurants, and the inevitable shopping and attraction trips," said Garrett. "We look at sporting events as great economic engines in our communities, and, they're a great way to show off the Chicago Southland to out-of-towners." Chicago Southland CVB Sports Sales Executive Jay Allen has been working for months with regional partners to assist in bringing the following events to our region: 1) Ballpark Sports Baseball Tournaments – April-September 2009, various locations.

Weekend games will be held over 11 weekends at Standard Bank Stadium in Crestwood. Larger tournaments will use Midlothian Park District Fields, Bremen HS fields, and Oak Forest HS fields. The two large tournaments are the Fletcher Midwest Regional Tournament (ages 14 & 15), July 3-5, and the Fletcher World Championships (ages 14 & 15), July 12-19 2) American Junior Golf Association Pre-Season – May 1-3 at Green Garden Country Club, Frankfort . This tournament brings the top high school golfers in the Midwest to the Southland for a three-day tournament. 3) Cochrane Cup and Jablonic Cup - Men's Rowing – May 2 at the Calumet-Sag Channel in Blue Island .

The men's crews from the University of Wisconsin, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dartmouth College, Boston University, and George Washington University. 4) Palos Bank Southwest Half Marathon – A 13.1 mile half marathon on Sunday, May 3 beginning at 7:30 a.m. Palos Heights Village Hall. This is the second year for the half marathon, which is expected to draw more than 1,800 runners. 5) 2009 IHSA Boys Gymnastics State Finals – May 15 & 16 at Lincoln-Way East HS in Frankfort , May 15 & 16. Competitions are Friday evening and Saturday afternoon and evening. 6) National Softball Association Tournaments – Girl's tourneys for ages 10U – 18U in Orland Hills June 19 – 21 and June 26 – 28. 7) USASA Region II Finals – June 26-28 at Chicago Gaelic Park in Oak Forest .

The United State Adult Soccer Association's Midwest Region II Finals will bring more than 80 men's and women's team from 13 states to Gaelic Park for a weekend of tournament play. 8) US Pro Mini Golf US Open – July 10 - 12 at BALL FORE in Worth. Coordinated by the Chicago Ridge Park District, the US Pro Mini Golf US Open brings the best of the best mini golf players to the Southland to compete for best in the US . 9) Wifflefest 2009 – July 18 in Homewood , hosted by the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District.

This is an adult wiffle ball tournament with entries from around Illinois and Indiana . 10) AJGA Flossmoor Open – July 20 - 23 at Flossmoor Country Club. The American Junior Golf Association Flossmoor Open is an important stop on the AJGA Tour, bringing the nation's best high school golfers to the Southland.

A tournament pre-qualifier will also be held here on July 19. For additional information on any of the events listed above, or, if you'd like to host a tournament or sporting event in the Chicago Southland region, contact Jay Allen at the Chicago Southland CVB, 708-895-8200 or jay@visitchicagosouthland.com.

Palos Park Seniors meet

The Palos Park Senior Club will hold their monthly meeting on Monday, April 13, 2009. Doors open at 11:30a.m. To order lunch please call (708) 480-4103. Meetings are held in the lower level of the Recreation Center, 8901 West 123rd Street, Palos Park. There will be two presentation. Sheila Sosnicki, Head Librearian of the Palos Park Library will give an overview of the Library and share information about all the wonderful programs offered. Dr. Michael McVady will also address our group.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

Your Suburban Newspaper for 35 years

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 35 Number 19

April 21, 2009

American Legion holds meeting

The Evergreen Park American Legion Auxiliary will hold their monthly meeting on Monday, April 27, 2009 . The meeting will be held at the American Legion Hall, Post 854, 9701 S. Kedzie Ave. Nominations for 2009-2010 Officers will be announced.

The American Legion Auxiliary promotes patriotism and is committed to helping veterans, their dependents, active service men and women, and the community. If you would like information about joining the Auxiliary, please contact Dian Kinahan at 708-229-212

Evergreen Park American Legion Spaghetti

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to an event that will benefit veterans and active service men and women. The Ladies Auxiliary of the Evergreen Park American Legion Post #854 will host a Spaghetti Dinner and Raffle on Friday, May 1, 2009 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall located at 9701 S. Kedzie Ave. in Evergreen Park .

There will be good food, adult and children's raffle prizes, a bake sale, and loads of fun.

Tickets for adults are $7.00 at the door or $6.00 in advance at the Post Bar.

Mount Assisi students learn women's history through fashion trends

From Mrs. Lincoln – 1860 to Mrs. Kennedy - 1960MAA Students Learn Women's History through Fashion Trends presented by Sandi Eileen Sheibley

For the 15th consecutive year Sandi Eileen Sheibley, a former museum curator at the DuPage County Historical Museum, consultant for the Wheaton Historical Center and several other area historical organizations, visited Mount Assisi Academy where she presented a unique history lesson to MAA upperclassmen. Mrs. Sheibley owns an extensive collection of vintage historical clothing and accessories – ranging from Civil War ball gowns and corsets to chic pillbox hats and Chanel suits made famous by former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy.

On March 31, the last day of Women's History Month, Mrs. Sheibley brought her unique perspective of women's history to MAA – connecting the style of clothing for a particular date in history to women and their place in society at that time. Mount Assisi Academy students served as 'models' for the presentation, donning hats and displaying the outfits that defined both the culture and status of women throughout the years.

"The clothes women donned at any particular time in history gave a fairly accurate indication of their place in society," Mrs. Sheibley commented. As she displayed a steel corset worn by proper women during Mary Todd Lincoln's era Mrs. Sheibley noted that "Women in the 1860's were required to live up to an exceptional level of modesty and the feminine ideal of an hourglass figure.

Wearing steel corsets from an early age, in effect, permanently altered their body shape, stunting the growth and expansion of their rib cages. They wore long dresses with several petticoats and hoops around the hemline to present an ultra-feminine, doll-like image," Mrs. Sheibley continued. Mrs. Sheibley's presentation progressed chronologically, featuring authentic and well-preserved clothing and accessories from the World War I era including flapper dresses, through the Great Depression into the 1930's and 40's, continuing with World War II into the 1950's and 1960's. For more information about Mount Assisi Academy please call 630-257-7844 or go to www.mtassisiacademy.org.

Photograph 1 (L-R): OLCHS senior Matt Deplaris and AdvancED President/Student Town Hall Moderator Mark A. Elgart

Senior Matt Deplaris Presents at Conference Oak Lawn Community High School

Oak Lawn Community High School senior Matt Deplaris presented at the inaugural 2009 AdvancED Conference in Chicago. Matt was chosen to present during the Student Town Hall panel discussion titled "Is Our Educational System Preparing Our Students for the Future?" Topics that Matt addressed included his education and career plans after high school, strengths in the current education system, needs for improvement in the current education system, and technology. Matt's contributions will provide school districts with information to help them improve their schools.

Matt is the son of David and Susan Deplaris of Oak Lawn. He is an honor roll student and is active in National Honor Society, peer mediation, student helpers, and senior class advisory board. Matt is also the president of the student council and a member of the cross country and track teams.

Oak Lawn Garden Club News

The Oak Lawn Garden Club will hold its Annual Plant Sale at Wolfe Wildlife Refuge at 109th and Laramie Ave. Oak Lawn May 16th, 9:00 am-3:00 PM

Military News

Army Pvt. Steve N. Qualizza has graduated from One Station Unit Training (OSUT) at Fort Knox, Ky., which consisted of basic military training and advanced individual training (AIT).

The first nine weeks of initial entry training, or basic combat training, the trainee received instruction in drill and ceremony, weapons, rifle marksman-ship qualification, bayonet combat, chemical warfare, field training and tactical exercises, marches, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history, traditions, and core values.

During AIT, the soldier completed the seven-week cavalry scout course. The training included subjects and instructions to operate, maintain and fire M2/M3 Bradley fighting vehicles; call and adjust fire on enemy targets, recognize friendly and threat vehicles; conduct reconnaissance and security missions, perform foot patrols, conduct land navigation, locate and neutralize mines; and operate and maintain scout vehicles.

He is the son of Steve Qualizza of Ponderosa Court, Orland Park, Ill., and nephew of Genelle Chisholm of Navajo Court, New Lenox, Ill.

The private is a 2007 graduate of Carl Sandburg High School, Orland Park.

Army Pvt. Anthony M. Studnicka has graduated from One Station Unit Training (OSUT) at Fort Knox, Ky., which included basic combat training and advanced individual training (AIT).

During the first nine weeks of initial entry training (IET), the trainee completed basic combat training which included instruction in drill and ceremony, weapons, marksmanship and bayonet training, chemical warfare, field training and tactical exercises, marches, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history, traditions, and core values.During AIT, the soldier completed the armor crewman course to receive skill training in conducting tank unit defensive and offensive combat operations.

The soldier was trained to operate, service and maintain armor tracked and wheeled vehicles, load and fire tank weapon systems, perform ammunition handling and supply duties, and assist in target detection and identification.

He is the son of John and Helen Studnicka of S. Hamlin Ave., Midlothian, Ill.The private is a 2008 graduate of Bremen High School, Midlothian.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Humana Announces 2009 Chicago Benefits Grant

$100,000 grant will be awarded to a Chicago nonprofit organization

Many of the nation's nonprofit organizations, including those that provide health care, education and arts programming, depend on corporate support to meet the needs of their clients. According to a recent survey by the Conference Board, however, more than 60 percent of companies have either reduced their giving or plan to during 2009.

Health-benefits company Humana Inc. (NYSE: HUM) is helping to tilt the scale in the other direction, by offering Chicago-area charities in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kankakee, Lake and McHenry counties the chance to apply for a one-time, $100,000 grant in the seventh annual Chicago Benefits charitable grant program, at www.ChicagoBenefits.org.

The program – designed to give local not-for-profit charitable organizations the opportunity to receive a one-time infusion of funding to create new programs or enhance ongoing activities – is open to 501(c)(3) organizations located in the Chicago metropolitan area that address the mind, body or spirit of local residents.

"Since 2003, the Chicago Benefits charitable awards program has allowed Humana to show its dedication to the Chicagoland nonprofit organizations that provide vital support to our communities," said Mike Kasper, president of Humana's Illinois market and Chicago Benefits co-chair. "In a time when many of these organizations face economic hardship, Humana understands that our continued support and commitment to the Chicago Benefits program is of the utmost importance to continue the great nonprofit work that benefits us all."

All Chicagoland-based nonprofit organizations interested in applying for the grant are encouraged to visit www.ChicagoBenefits.org to download a copy of this year's application and review program criteria. To be considered, organizations must submit an application by June 5, 2009.

A panel of local judges, comprised of community leaders, public officials and business representatives, will work with Humana to select the $100,000 grant winner. Humana will recognize the winner at a celebratory award presentation in August.

In 2008, the Chicago Benefits charitable awards program awarded grants to three area charities. Misericordia, a community of care in Chicago for more than 550 children and adults with developmental disabilities, won the signature $100,000 award, enabling the organization to provide members with developmental learning opportunities through the addition of a Technology Enabled Learning Center. Finalists Lifelink and Pro Se Services were also honored.

"Misericordia is so thankful for Humana's Chicago Benefits grant of $100,000, which has helped us to make the addition of a Technology Enabled Learning Center a reality," said Sister Rosemary Connelly, executive director of Misericordia since 1969. "The center has allowed us to expand how we help our residents achieve success, especially in a time when technological knowledge has become a requirement in our society."

"Through Chicago Benefits, more than $700,000 in grants has been awarded to the local not-for-profit organizations that help promote healthy lives and communities in the Chicago metropolitan area since 2003," said Deborah Gracey, president of Medicare operations in Humana's Great Lakes Region and co-chair of Chicago Benefits. "This is my second year serving as co-chair and I'm certain that the 2009 program will again make a significant impact, helping those who work tirelessly to make a difference for people in need."

Questions regarding Chicago Benefits may be directed to Humana at 312-441-5580 or ChicagoBenefits@humana.com. More information on the application and the grant program is available at www.ChicagoBenefits.org.

About Humana Inc.

Humana Inc., headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, is one of the nation's largest publicly traded health and supplemental benefits companies, with approximately 10.6 million medical members. Humana is a full-service benefits solutions company, offering a wide array of health and supplementary benefit plans for employer groups, government programs and individuals.

Over its 48-year history, Humana has consistently seized opportunities to meet changing customer needs. Today, the company is a leader in consumer engagement, providing guidance that leads to lower costs and a better health plan experience throughout its diversified customer portfolio.

More information regarding Humana is available to investors via the Investor Relations page of the company's web site at http://www.humana.com, including copies of:

·Annual reports to stockholders

·Securities and Exchange Commission filings

·Most recent investor conference presentations

·Quarterly earnings news releases

·Replays of most recent earnings release conference calls

·Calendar of events (includes upcoming earnings conference call dates and times, as well as planned interaction with research analysts and institutional investors)

·Corporate Governance Information

Is now a good time to by a home

According to the non-profit Illinois Associ-ation of Mortgage Profes-sionals (IAMP) and the Mortgage Education Foundation (MEF), they suggest that potential homebuyers consider the following:

·Interest rates are at or near historic lows, with a 30-year fixed rate mortgages below five-percent.

·In most cases, it is less expensive to own than rent, even when you factor in the cost of homeownership, i.e. insurance, taxes, etc. Plus, why pay for your landlord's property when you can build equity and wealth in your own home? Rents are rising as many investment property owners struggle to keep up with their mortgage payments, and by renting, you are at risk if the property owner goes into foreclosure.

·Inventories are very high right now, providing prospective buyers with a wide array of properties to choose from.

·In many cases, home values are at 2001 levels, giving consumers the opportunity to find a great deal on a property.

·A variety of financing options exist, including low-down payment options, FHA loans and rural development programs.

·HUD properties are available with very little down and FHA financing available. Consumers should check with an IAMP member that is an FHA expert to guide them through this option.

·An $8,000 tax credit is available to qualified first-time homebuyers, who should check with their mortgage or tax professional.Now is also a great time to refinance, which could lead to significant savings in interest paid over the life of the loan.

"Interest rates, loan programs, and inventory of available properties make this an ideal time to buy a home and consumers should work with a licens-ed/registered and educated mortgage pro-fessional who can help determine the right loan program option based on a consumer's individual cir-cumstances," said Jorge Gomez, president of the Illinois Association of Mortgage Professionals.

For more information, or to find a mortgage profess-ional in your area, visit the consumer information page on the IAMP web site at www.iamp.biz.

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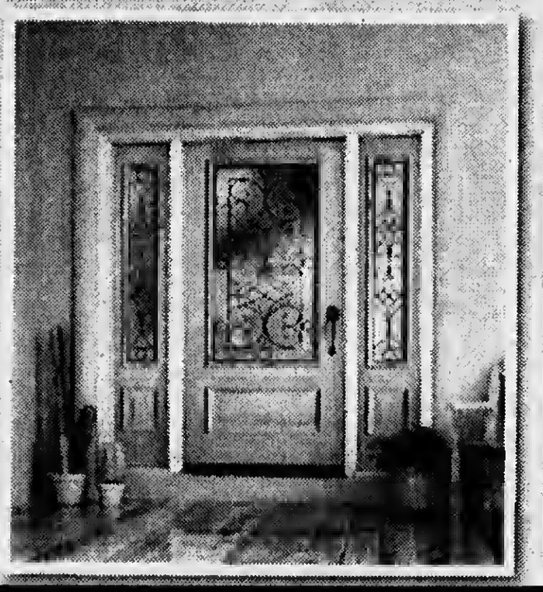

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How to Have Happy Feet for the Summer

Doctor Offers Tips for Healthy, Attractive Feet

For the Barefoot Season

Summertime means bare feet.

At the beach, at the pool or just walking in sandals, it's the season where your feet get to breathe. But how do you keep your feet healthy as you expose them to dangers like athlete's foot and other maladies that can make your feet itch, swell or just look ugly?

Dr. Maureen Jennings, podiatrist and spokesperson for Pedinol Pharmacal's Fungoid Tincture (www.fungoid.net) – a foot fungus remedy – says healthy feet are always important, but even more so during the summer.

"It's not enough just to keep your feet clean," said Dr Jennings. "A lot of people tend to ignore their feet, and as a result they expose them to all kinds of infections and problems that can cause them to be both unhealthy and unsightly. The last thing you want during the summer is to be forced to hide your feet because they're red, itchy or inflamed. And let's face it guys, wearing socks with sandals is one quick way to make the 'loser's list' with the ladies."

Dr. Jennings says there are 11 simple rules to follow for healthy, happy feet.

·Proper hygiene and regular inspection of the feet and toes are the first lines of defense against fungal infections.

·Clean and dry feet resist disease.

·Washing the feet with soap and water, remembering to dry thoroughly, is the best way to prevent an infection.

·Shower shoes should be worn when possible in public areas.

·Shoes, socks, or hosiery should be changed more than once daily.

·Toenails should be clipped straight across so that the nail does not extend beyond the tip of the toe.

·Wear shoes that fit well and are made of materials that breathe.

·Avoidwearing excessively tight hosiery, which promote moisture.

·Socks made of synthetic fiber tend to "wick" away moisture faster than cotton or wool socks.

·Disinfect home pedicure tools.

·Don't apply polish to nails suspected of infection—those that are red, discolored, or swollen, for example.

"Another thing to watch for ladies, is the nail salon," she said. "As times get tough, some salons are cutting corners on the sterilization of their tools and soaking tubs. Ask your salon attendant if they've washed their equipment before they start working on your feet. Germs and bacteria can grow in the tubs they use to soak your feet, so if it looks dirty, insist they clean it with soap and hot water before they refill it for your session."

Dr. Jennings also recommends men be extra careful about foot care when visiting the gym.

"Those showers and locker rooms at the gym are breeding grounds for all kinds of fungus and bacteria, but you can fight it if you make sure you dry your feet thoroughly after you shower, and put on a pair of clean socks after your shower. You wouldn't put on the same shirt you used for your workout after showering, so why would you want to wear the same socks from your workout after you cleaned up?"

SXU's Shannon Center completes Biggest Loser Fitness Challenge

More than 100 participants lost over 400 pounds

Chicago (April 16, 2009) Saint Xavier University's Shannon Center recently completed its 10-week Biggest Loser Fitness Challenge with more than 100 participants losing over 400 pounds.

Rob Parisella, of Burbank , won first place after dropping 46 pounds. Saint Xavier student Haley Neale, of Fort Wayne , Ind. , took second place by losing 36 pounds. Nick O'Conner, of Chicago , finished third by losing 32 pounds. All three winners received Visa gift cards as prizes.

"We are so proud of all of our participants and hope that everyone sticks with their diet and exercise plans," said Shannon Center Asst. Facilities Manager Kristy Allen.

The Biggest Loser event is a 10-week fitness challenge designed to help participants lose weight, make healthy lifestyle changes, maintain weight loss and have fun. The program offered informational packets, nutrition tips, lunch-hour walking programs and other health and fitness resources.

Support Funding Source for Dental

Thousands of low-income children and adults in Illinois suffer from untreated dental disease. They can't eat or sleep properly, can't do their best at school or work; they can't smile. They are at risk for other, serious health problems. All because of a disease that could easily have been prevented and could easily be treated. We applaud Rep. Lisa Hernandez for introducing legislation that would fund much needed improvements to Illinois' dental care system, dramatically increasing the number of people receiving dental care, through a modest increase in the sales tax on soft drinks.

Under an amendment to HB 388, revenues generated from a five percent statewide soft drink sales tax would fund dental clinics in underserved areas and increase funding for Medicaid dental coverage. Illinois has among the lowest rates in the nation for government-funded dental care. As a result, we face an oral-health-care crisis. Dental clinics have closed; services have been sharply reduced... all while the need for government-funded dental care has dramatically increased due to the economic downturn and massive job loss. Illinois currently has just one clinic per 8,400 children who rely on government insurance.

On average, each American drinks 53 gallons of soda a year, and the consumption of soft drinks in general has increased 500 percent in the past 50 years. Soft drinks have no nutritional value and pose many oral and overall health risks, including enamel loss and obesity.

By taking advantage of a 50 percent federal match, this increase in sales tax will generate as much as $91 million for oral health care programs. Enough to help millions of children and adults gain access to much needed dental services.

HB 388 will help end a lot of needless suffering among the most vulnerable Illinoisans. I urge you to tell your legislator to support this bill. The future of healthy smiles depends on it.

Lauri Frichtl
Executive Director
Illinois Head Start Association About Head Start:

The Illinois Head Start Association (IHSA) was incorporated in 1978 to represent and provide services for all members of the Head Start community: directors, staff, parents, and friends. The Association is committed to enhancing the development of children, empowering families and strengthening communities.

In the advocacy role, the Association speaks in a unified voice and acts on issues affecting children and families. It provides professional development opportunities for all members through conferences and institutes and awards training scholar-ships annually.

The Association accepts the statewide leadership role for providing information, developing local and state partnerships and empowering members to be community leaders.

Congratulations for Volunteering

Helen Stockdale of Manteno, Ill. has volunteered at MetroSouth Medical Center (formerly St. Francis Hospital) in Blue Island since 1975, making her the hospital's longest-running volunteer. Over the years, she has logged more than 28,000 volunteer hours, more than any volunteer in the hospital's history. During National Volunteer Week, April 19 – 25, MetroSouth will hold a luncheon and other events to honor all volunteers, who serve about 20 departments, from the emergency room to the gift shop. To join the team, call (708) 597-2000, ext. 5270.

Photo by George Poulous

Gus Gonzalez 1st Pl. Mrs. Holly Oszakiewski, 5th Grade Teacher, Sgt., Gary Kollner, Chief Alan Vodicka, Firefighter Don Hucneckc and Principle Dr. Robert Smith.

St. Patricia 5th grade students completed the DARE program taught by Sgt Gary Kollner, Hickory Hills Police Department.

Village of Orland Park to Host "Fit For Life Family Health Fair"

Free Screenings and More Offered at Sportsplex

The Village of Orland Park Recreation and Parks Department will host its annual "Fit for Life Family Health Fair" on Saturday, April 25 from 9:00 a.m. until noon at the Village of Orland Park Sportsplex , 11351 West 159th Street . Topics will address the fitness needs of the entire family.

The fair will offer free screenings and information on a variety of health issues including asthma screening, depression screening, balance testing, blood pressure screenings, bone density testing, body mass index, flexibility testing, foot pressure analysis, free aerobics classes, injury screening, nursing home information, podiatry screening, skin hydration testing and trigger point massage. Information about a number of health issues will be available, including diabetes, sleep disorders, leukemia and lymphoma and hearing information.

Screenings for glucose levels require a twelve hour fast and pre-registration. Those interested in the glucose screening must call 1-800-323-8622 to register. Immunizations will also be available for an additional fee, including tetanus, Zostavax, pneumonia and meningitis. Advanced registration is not required for the cholesterol screening; however, fasting is required.

"An important part of staying healthy is to be screened for potentially dangerous conditions," explained Deborah Geghen, Fitness Manager for the Village of Orland Park .

Children are invited to try an obstacle course, sample healthy snacks, try on fire gear, have their faces painted, jump in the Dino Jump, and receive Kid Care I.D. cards from the Orland Park Police Department.

"This is a great opportunity to show children the benefits of staying healthy," Geghen noted.

"A lot of health fairs tend to be geared towards adults — ours is for everyone," Geghen said. "Great fitness habits, healthy eating and lifestyle habits should start at a young age. We believe if the family can support each other and help each other to stay healthy, it makes for an easier and fulfilling life," she added.

More than 100 guests attended last year's fair with participants of all ages enjoying the activities. Raffles will be held for many of the great prizes that are being donated. For more information, contact the Village of Orland Park Sportsplex at 708-645-PLAY.

Cinco De Mayo Fiesta!

Free to the Blue Island Community!
Gratis Para la Comunidad de Blue Island
Sponsored by Metro South Medical Center
Patrocinado por Metro South Medical Center
Date: Saturday May 2, 2009
Time: 6-10 p.m.
Place: Blue Island Park District Upper Pavilion. 12804 Highland Ave, Blue Island IL
Featuring:
Live music all night
Mariachi band at 8pm
Food and drinks by Resturante Tenochtitlan (for purchase)
Fecha: Sabado Mayo 2, 2009
Hora: 6-10 p.m.
Lugar: Pavilion Principal del Parque Blue Island. 12804 Highland Ave, Blue Island IL
Ofreciendo:
Musica en vivo Mariachi a las 8pm
Comida por el Resturante Tenochtitlan

Oak Lawn Library introduces programs

"Wild About Reading" Free Passes to Brookfield Zoo

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., continues to participate in the Brookfield Zoo "Wild About Reading" program. Oak Lawn residents may check out a special zoo pass that entitles four individuals to free general admission during all public hours. Parking and special exhibits are not included. The library has four passes available for check out to adult Oak Lawn residents for five day loan periods, on a first-come, first-served basis. One pass per family, per loan period. No renewals or reserves permitted.

Interested parties should contact Circulation Services to inquire about availability, 7084224990. Non-residents are encouraged to check with their home library for participation in the program.

"Guys Read" Club for Grades 3 to 5

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., hosts "Guys Read," a free after-school program for boys in third through fifth grade. On Tuesday, April 28 from 4-5 p.m., participants will discuss the latest books they've read and participate in games. Snacks are provided. Advance registration required at the Youth Services Desk.

###

Free Movie: The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will host a free screening of the 2008 film "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas" on Wednesday, April 29 at both 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Based on the 2006 novel by John Boyne. Rated: PG-13.

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Student Mark Piper, Professor Jason Aleksander, Ph.D., Professor Ann Filipski and President Judith A. Dwyer, Ph.D at Saint Xavier University's Annual University Awards Ceremony.

SXU holds University Awards CeremonyRecognizes scholarship and service achievements

Saint Xavier University held its annual University Awards Ceremony on April 15 to recognize student achievements in scholarship and service.

The following students received awards:

· Dean's Fellowship Award: Amy Poull, Oak Forest
· Sister Mary Josetta Butler Award: Amanda Holmes, Oak Lawn
· Hassan (Husni) and Safia Haddad Peace Award: Amanda Holmes, Oak Lawn
· College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award: Lisa James, Blue Island
· The Wall Street Journal Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award: Todd Gutowksi, Chicago
· The J.K. Hwang Outstanding Graduate Student Award: Jared Watts, Frankfort
· Sister Mary Dominic Merwick Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award: Holly Kennedy, Henry
· Sister Irenaeus Chekouras Outstanding Graduate Student Award: Joseph Rizzo, Orland Park
· School of Nursing Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award: Allison Phillips, Chicago
· School of Nursing Outstanding Graduate Student Award: Theresa Pretto, Tinley Park
· Adult Learner Award: Brian Radakovitz, Orland Park
· Excellence in Writing Award – Undergraduate: Michael Noonan, Lansing and Ana Romero, Chicago
· Excellence in Writing Award – Graduate: Kathleen Furlong, Mokena and Brian Johnson, Frankfort
· Student Laureate of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois : Alyson Kelley, Aurora
· Saint Catherine Award: Mark Piper, Stoughton , Wis.

Saint Xavier philosophy professor Jason Aleksander, Ph.D., received the Excellence in Teaching Award.

Worth Park District Open House

Join in the celebration! South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA) will host a Worth Open House on Saturday, May 30th, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Worth Park District, 11500 Beloit Avenue, to welcome the Worth Park District as their newest member district. The public is invited to join in a variety of festivities including music, dancing, face painting, food, giveaways and more.

SWSRA is a non- profit organization that provides recreational opportunities for individuals with special needs. As of May 1st, Worth residents are considered "residents" or "in-district" members of SWSRA. Participants will now pay the resident fee and can apply for SWSRA scholarships.

Worth will also be added as a pick up/drop off location as well as become a hosting site for SWSRA programs. This event is FREE for residents and $10 for non-residents. The registration deadline is

May 15th. Please contact the SWSRA office at (708) 389-9423 for more information

Evergreen Park Public Library information

Hidden Truths: The Chicago City Cemetery and Lincoln Park Artist and Northwestern University senior lecturer Pamela Bannos will host a program at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy on the hidden stories behind Chicago City Cemetery and Lincoln Park . The lecture will take place on Wednesday, April 22nd at 7:00 pm. Checkout her website: http://hiddentruths.northwestern.edu/home.html.

For registration information: (708) 422-8522 or e-mail adultservices@evergreenparklibrary.org Earth Day Recycled Crafts at the Evergreen Park Public Library On Wednesday, April 22nd at 7:00 pm at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy , teen's grades 6-12 are invited to create recycled crafts from our supply of collected materials! For registration information: (708) 422-8522 or e-mail teenspace@evergreenparklibrary.org Body Smart Gardening Workshop at the E.P. Library Join Sue McCarthy, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener , on Thursday, April 23rd at 6:30 pm for a program on Body Smart Gardening. This program will help one garden "smartly" with emphasis on approved methods and tools to reduce stress and strain on the body. The program is free, but registration is required. For more information: (708) 422-8522 or e-mail adultservices@evergreenparklibrary.org Family Meal Planning at the Evergreen Park Public Library Chef Kate Bradley and Certified Professional Organizer M. Colleen Klimczak have teamed up to present "Family Meal Planning" at the Evergreen Park Library, 9400 South Troy, on Tuesday, April 28th at 6:30 pm. Registration is required and limited to 60 participants with a $3.00 per person tasting fee. For more information: (Pretzel Chemistry at the Evergreen Park Public Library! The Evergreen Park Public Library is located 9400 S. Troy.

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The Power of Love

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Photo caption: Back Row, left to right: Patti Johnson; Standard Bank & Trust; Lieutenant Gary Patrick, Oak Lawn Fire Department; John Crivellone, United Security Services and Coloring Book chairperson Front Row, left to right: Orlando Mollo, 2nd place Public Safety contest; Diane Casillas, 1st place Public Safety contest; Adam Baniewicz, 2nd place Fire Safety contest; Jeffrey Thome, 1st place Fire Safety Contest; Alexis O'Brien, 3rd place Public Safety contest.. (Not present: Alex Cruz, 3rd place Fire Safety Contest.)

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce Recognizes Winners of Annual Fire and Public Safety Coloring Book Contest

Winners selected from hundreds of entries submitted by local grammar school students Oak Lawn, IL, The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce recognized winners of the annual Fire and Public Safety Coloring Book contest during the March 24 Village board meeting.

Representatives from the Oak Lawn Fire and Police Departments were on hand to congratulate the winners who were honored by Village President, Dave Heilmann. Also in attendance were John Crivellone, Chamber Director and chairperson of the Coloring Book Committee, and Patti Johnson of Standard Bank & Trust who presented the winners with their prize, a U.S. Savings Bond. The winners are as follow: Fire Safety Coloring Contest (sponsored by the Oak Lawn Fire Department) 1st Place: $100 Savings Bond Jeffrey Thome Grade 4 – Hannum Elementary 2nd Place: $50 Savings Bond Adam Baniewicz Grade 4 – St. Gerald's 3rd Place: $50 Savings Bond Alex Cruz Grade 4 – Columbus Manor Public Safety Coloring Contest (sponsored by the Oak Lawn Police Department) 1st Place: $100 Savings Bond Diana Casillas Grade 3 – Kolb Elementary 2nd Place: $50 Savings Bond Orlando Mollo Grade 2 – South Side Baptist 3rd Place: $50 Savings Bond Alexis O'Brien Grade 1 – St. Linus For more than 25 years the Oak Lawn Chamber has collaborated with the Oak Lawn Fire Department to produce this valuable teaching tool for nearly 4,000 K-4th grade students in the community. For the past two years, the Fire and Police Departments have collaborated on the production of the book.

The 1st place drawing from the respective coloring contests will be featured on the cover of the 2009 Fire and Public Safety Coloring Book. Founded in 1946, today the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce consists of more than 300 members. The Chamber of Commerce works to represent and advance the Oak Lawn business community, striving with constant integrity, fairness and cooperation to promote and improve the economic atmosphere, business climate and image of Oak Lawn.

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Spring 2009 for Alsip Park District

The Alsip Park District Board of Commissioners and Staff take pride in their responsibility to provide a wide range of recreational and leisure activities to its residents. Whether you're looking for an art class, an after-school program, golf lessons, parent/child activities, a dance or fitness class or an athletic league, we are committed to meet the needs of the community.

From Pre-Schoolers to Mature Adults, our staff is very creative and enthusiastic in designing recreational programming that reflect the mission of the Alsip Park District. Spring programs are scheduled to begin the week of April 6-11.

If you have any questions or need additional information, you can email us at mainoffice@alsipparks.org. or call us at 708-389-1003. Click on a link below to view the program(s) that interest you.

Orland Township promotes Health Awareness

Orland Township Health Awareness / Free Health Screening Wednesday, April 29, 1pm-3pm Wal-Mart, 9256 W. 159th Street, Orland Hills, IL

Blood pressure screening with MetroSouth Medical Center Home Care and Hospice. Senior Healthy Living / Free Health ScreeningFriday, May 1, 10am-12pm Heritage I, 11949 S. Ridgeway, Alsip, IL.

Blood pressure and body mass index (BMI) for the senior residents at the Heritage I place. Senior Healthy Living / Free Health ScreeningFriday, May 1, 12:30pm-2:30pm Heritage II, 3715 W. 123rd Place, Alsip, IL.

Blood pressure and body mass index (BMI) for the senior residents at the Heritage II place.

Cinco De Mayo/ RecreationSaturday, May 2, 6pm-10pm Blue Island Park District, Cinco de Mayo Authentic mariachi band, food and drink special, and Mexican Folkloric Dance team will perform. Senior Day /

Free Health Screening Saturday, May 7, 10am-4pm Alsip-Merrionettee Park Library, 11960 S. Pulaski Rd., Alsip, IL

Blood pressure, blood glucose, and cholesterol screening.

National Hospital WeekMay 10th-16th MetroSouth Medical Center National Hospital Week

The Southwest Symphony Orchestra presents classic films Classic Scores

On Saturday, May 2, 2009, under the direction of David L. Crane the Southwest Symphony Orchestra will present its last concert of the season. The SSO will relive the treasured sound-tracts from such memorable movies as Victory at Sea, E.T., Oklahoma,

The Sting, Forrest Gump and more. Also included in the evening's program will be Mozart's Gran Partita Serenade, adagio movement. You may remember Salieri's vivid and tear-jerking description on first hearing this as one of the most poignant moments in the movie Amadeus.

· The concert is located at Trinity Christian College's Ozinga Auditorium, 6601 West College Drive, Palos Heights.

· Concert begins at 8:00 p.m., May 2, 209.

· Ticket prices start at $5 for students, $15 to $20 for seniors, adults $20 to $25, children under 12 are free. Tickets may be purchased at the door or by calling 708-802-0686.

· Parties of 10 or more may purchase tickets for $10 per person.

The not-for-profit Southwest Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1964 and serves audiences throughout the south and southwest suburban communities. Learn more at southwestsymphony.com.

Military News

Air Force Airman Arlena Y. Newson graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

She is the daughter of Arletha and Charles Newson of W. 99th Terrace, Palos Hills, Ill. Newson graduated in 2000 from Bogan High School, Chicago, Ill., and received an associate degree in 2004 from Everest College, Arlington, Va.

Hometown-Murray VFW Post #9773 holds benefit

Hometown-Murray VFW Post #9773 is hosting a Breast Cancer Benefit on Saturday, April 25th. 7pm till 11pm- 9092 Main St. Hometown, IL. A $10.00 donation includes lite refreshments-

Entertainment. Surprises!! Win a 32" Flat Screen TV.-Tickets- $5.00 ea -winner need not be present. Come out and fight with the Veterans of Foreign Wars- This is one battle we can win-but we need your help!

For more info or to purchase TV Raffle tickets -call 708-422-9800 after 5pm

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Annual Scottish Festival holds their games in Oak Brook

The Illinois Saint Andrew Society presents the 23rd Annual Scottish Festival & Highland Games, promoting Chicago 's Scottish tradition, revelry, and culture in a weekend celebration for the entire family! Be Scottish for a day this summer as the Illinois Saint Andrew Society, Illinois ' oldest charity, presents this two-day summer celebration with an extensive array of uniquely Scottish attractions "This is the largest and best Scottish festival in the Midwest," said Gus Noble, President of the Society. "We pride ourselves on making families feel like they've been transported to Scotland for a weekend of fun while enjoying a unique opportunity to learn more about Scottish culture."

The festival kicks off Friday, June 19 with exhibits and vendors open from 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Friday highlights include: Highland Dance competition, Heavy Athletics Friday Night Fling, crowning of the 2009 Heather Queen and Court and Whisky tastings and seminars. From 7:00-10:00 pm on the Celtic rock stage, there will be a Ceilidh (pronounced Kay-Lee), a lively celebration of traditional and contemporary Celtic music.The festival continues Saturday, June 20 from 8:00 am - 9:00 pm and features: Piping and Drumming competition;

Heavy Athletics U.S. Open Championship featuring traditional Scottish contests including the Caber Toss (flipping 20-foot, 140-pound tree trunk), the 22-pound Hammer Throw, the Sheaf Toss (flipping a bale of hay over a high bar) and the Clachnert (throwing a 16-pound river stone); Highland Dance competition featuring over 100 dance competitors; Rugby Sevens Highland Challenge; Youth Soccer 3 v 3 tournament; Falconry, Genealogy and Celtic Canine seminars; Parade of Clan Tartans and Children's activities including mini golf, crafts and carnival attractions. Event attendee competitions include: Kilted Mile Run/Walk, British Car Show, a Haggis Hurling Contest for women only; a Knobbly Knees Kilt Contest for men only, Haggis Eating Contest and a Shortbread Contest. Attendees can also enjoy musical performances on the Celtic Rock Stage; traditional Scottish cuisine and drink; Whisky Tasting Tent featuring multiple whisky vendors and Whisky Seminar Tent featuring whisky classes; a Tea & Shortbread Tent and the Celtic Marketplace, featuring a variety of unique Scottish and Celtic merchandise. The festivities culminate with the Closing Ceremonies and Massed Bands Show, a breath-taking spectacle of 1,000 bagpipers and drummers, all joined in performing several traditional musical selections including Amazing Grace.

WHEN: The festival is open to the public on Friday, June 19 from 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm and Saturday, June 20 from 8:00 am - 9:00 pm.

WHERE: Oak Brook Polo Grounds, 700 Oak Brook Road , Oak Brook , Illinois 60523

TICKETS: Website special...Now through April 15, 2009

Friday-Children 12&Under FREE; Adult $8; Saturday- Children 12&Under FREE; Adult $13

Patron Weekend Pass-$65.00 Two-day pass includes entry into the festival, premier seating inside the Patron Tent with views of Games' venues, beverages and snacks, meal ticket for each day, Saturday Preferred Parking Pass and unlimited access into the Whisky Tasting Tent.

Advance discounted ticket April 16-June 9, 2009:

Friday Children 12 & Under FREE; Adult $10; Saturday-Children 12 & Under FREE; Adult $15; Patron-$70

General Adult Admission tickets purchased at the festival gate are an additional $2.00. Patron tickets are an additional $5.00. All tickets are non-refundable.

For more information www.chicago-scots.org or call (708) 447-5092.

Illinois Saint Andrew Society would like to thank the following corporate sponsors: American Airlines, Glenlivet Whisky and the Illinois Arts Council.

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De La Salle Institute Hosts Great Futures Gala

De La Salle Institute is hosting the annual Great Futures Gala on April 24, 2009 at 6 pm at the University Club of Chicago, located at 76 E. Monroe St. in Chicago. Honored at the Great Futures Gala will be Mr. Elzie L. Higginbottom, president of East Lake Management & Development Corporation.

Sponsored by the Extollo Educational Foundation, the Great Futures Gala is an annual black-tie event that celebrates De La Salle Institute as "the place where great futures begin" and raises funds for the school's Student Financial Assistance Program.

Every April, De La Salle alumni, parents, friends, benefactors and corporate supporters enjoy this special occasion to promote education and provide educational opportunities for the young women and men attending De La Salle Institute. At last year's inaugural event, over $115,000 was raised to establish an annual scholarship that supports 10 students each year in memory of past De La Salle President Brother Michael Quirk's parents and nephew.

Individual tickets for the Great Futures Gala are available for $250 apiece and tables are available for $2,500. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

This year's Great Futures Gala also features a unique silent auction offering access to hands-on learning from Chicago's educational community.

For any questions, or to obtain more information about the Great Futures Gala, please contact Sarah Reczek, Director of Community Relations at De La Salle at 312.842.7355 ext 147 or reczeks@dls.org..

Run or walk the spring 5K at Moraine Valley

Join other walkers and runners for the "Spring in Your Step" 5K held along the walking path encircling Moraine Valley Community College on Saturday, May 2. Check-in is at 8:30 a.m., and the race begins at 9:15 a.m. in front of Building S (formerly the College Center) on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. The race will take participants twice around the path.

Participation in the 5K, or 3.1-mile jaunt, is free and open to the community. All registrants will be entered in a raffle to win goodies following the event, and prizes will be awarded to the top male and female finishers of both the run and walk.

The event is sponsored by Moraine Valley's Health Fitness Center. Registration forms can be picked up and dropped off in the Fitness Center in Building G. For more information, call Cathy Nolan at (708) 974-5378 or e-mail her at nolanc@morainevalley.edu.

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Wednesday, May 13 - Thursday, May 21, 2009

6:00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation
7:00 p.m. Mass and Novena Prayers

Feast Day Masses
Friday, May 22, 2009

9:30 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation
10:00 a.m. Mass and Novena Prayers
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Email: mrinsley@stritahs.com

American Folk Legends Kingston Trio comes to GSU

After more thank 50 years the Kingston Trio songs continue to inspire and carry the tradition of folk music for the future. The Grammy-Award-nominated folk legends The Kingston Trio, today comprised of Bill Zorn, George groove and Rick Dougherty, present a night of music and nostalgia at GSU's Center for the Performing Arts on May 3 at 5pm. It is a rare opportunity to enjoy the rich tradition of folk music that was instrumental to the era's beginnings.

Who doesn't remember "Tom Dooley" or "Michael and the row boat". They were in the heart of the protest movement in the 1960's. They came on the scene in 1957 in San Francisco and took the world by storm. Thos days were my post college days and we frequented the folk-houses. Who can remember Mr. Kelley's? They released after 1956 over 10 winning albums. Now the band with new people continues to evolve.

Tickets are now on sale at the box office. Call 708-235-2222.

An awesome "Tempest"

by Marijo Doody

The banished sorcerer Prospero, a real gift, has come to Steppenwolf. In all 31 years, Steppenwolf has taken the steps to produce a strong Shakespeare in the current production of "The Tempest" written in 1610-11. Critics and scholars in the twentieth century considered the play to be one of William Shakespeare's greatest works.

The Steppenwolf production was breathtaking with the imagination of director Tina Landan. The audience senses were just dazzled from the storm, rage, aerial airborne spirits and the acting!

Prospero, the rightful Duke of Milan, played by Frank Galati is both furious and sweet and at the top of his powers. He not only punishes but forgives his enemies in the storm that drives them ashore. What a great treat it was to meet Mr. Galati and shake his hand on the way out of the theatre that day!

The entire play takes place on an island under his control, where Ariel (Jon Michael Hill) and Caliban (K Todd Freeman) are his companions along with his daughter Miranda

(Alana Arenas). Prospero maintains Ariel's loyalty with a promise of freedom. Hill is fleet, musical and full of energy and remarkable (as were the other aerialist spirits).

The design team has illuminated a wondrous achievement and those in attendance will have memories that live on for years to come. Bring on the Jeff Committee!

The play has three plots that alternate through the play. Caliban, Stephano (Yasen Peyankov) and Trinculo (Tim Hopper) provide a comedic venue. The romance is provided with Miranda and Ferdinand (Stephen Louis Grush). The latter is King of Naples Alonso's (James Vincent Meredith) son. The third plot is the conspiracy to kill Alonso and Gonzalo (Lois Smith) who like Prospero finds wisdom in old age. These characters were all visitors to the island as they got washed up in the storm.

In the conclusion all is resolved. The play is about 'sea changing' into something rich and wonderful. The audience is not exempt and you will leave the theatre altered.

As Prospers says "We are such stuff as dreams are made on and our life is rounded with a sleep." The play runs through May 31 at Steppenwolf 1650 N Halsted. Do not miss this. Call the box office for tickets at 312-335-1650.

Rock 'n' Roll playing at Goodman Theatre

A must see with Tom Stoppard using 22 rock and roll songs from the turbulent years and director Charles Newell making this play another memorable year for Goodman Theatre.

Tickets are $25 – 75, and may be purchased online at GoodmanTheatre.org, at the Goodman Theatre Box Office, 170 North Dearborn Street , or by phone at 312.443.3800.

Mezztix are half-price mezzanine tickets available at 12 noon at the box office and at 10am online on the day of performance; not available by telephone. When purchasing online, use promo code MEZZTIX.

For students, 10Tix are $10 mezzanine tickets available at 12 noon at the box office and at 10am online on the day of performance; not available by telephone.

Valid student I.D. must be presented at will call; limit four tickets per student.

Drury Lane presents Sussical

The delightful Broadway musical "Sussical" is being presented currently for young audiences at the Drury Lane Oakbrook Theatre, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace. It is based on 14 magical stories by beloved author Dr. Seuss and directed and choreographed by Rachael Rockwell. Join the mischievous Cat in the Hat (George Keating) as he narrates the story of Horton the Elephant (Bernie Yvon) and his friends. As they journey from the Jungle of Nool to help a young girl JoJo (Arielle Leigh Dayan/ Elianna Schnittman) bring harmony to the tiny planet of Who.

Call the box office 630-530-0111. There is a breakfast buffet May 16

Doody's doodlings

By Marijo Doody

Porchlight Music Theatre ends its 2008-09 season, Musical Journeys—A Season of Musical Destinations with the Broadway musical "Once On This Island." The production begins previews on May 9 and runs through June 28, 2009 at the Theatre Building located 1225 W Belmont. The story is based on the novel by Rosa Guy and the classic fairy tale "The Little Mermaid." The creative team includes Mark Lococo, director, Eugene Dizon, music direction, Brenda Didlier, choreography, Ian Zywica, scenic design Carol J. Blanchard, costume design and Gary Echlemeyer lighting design. For tickets call the 7730-327-5252 or visit www.TicketMaster.com.

Steppenwolf Theatre Company has received a three-year $300,000 Challenge Grant from the Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust. Individual sponsors are provided unique access to the rehearsal and performance process. The trust has supported STC since 1996.

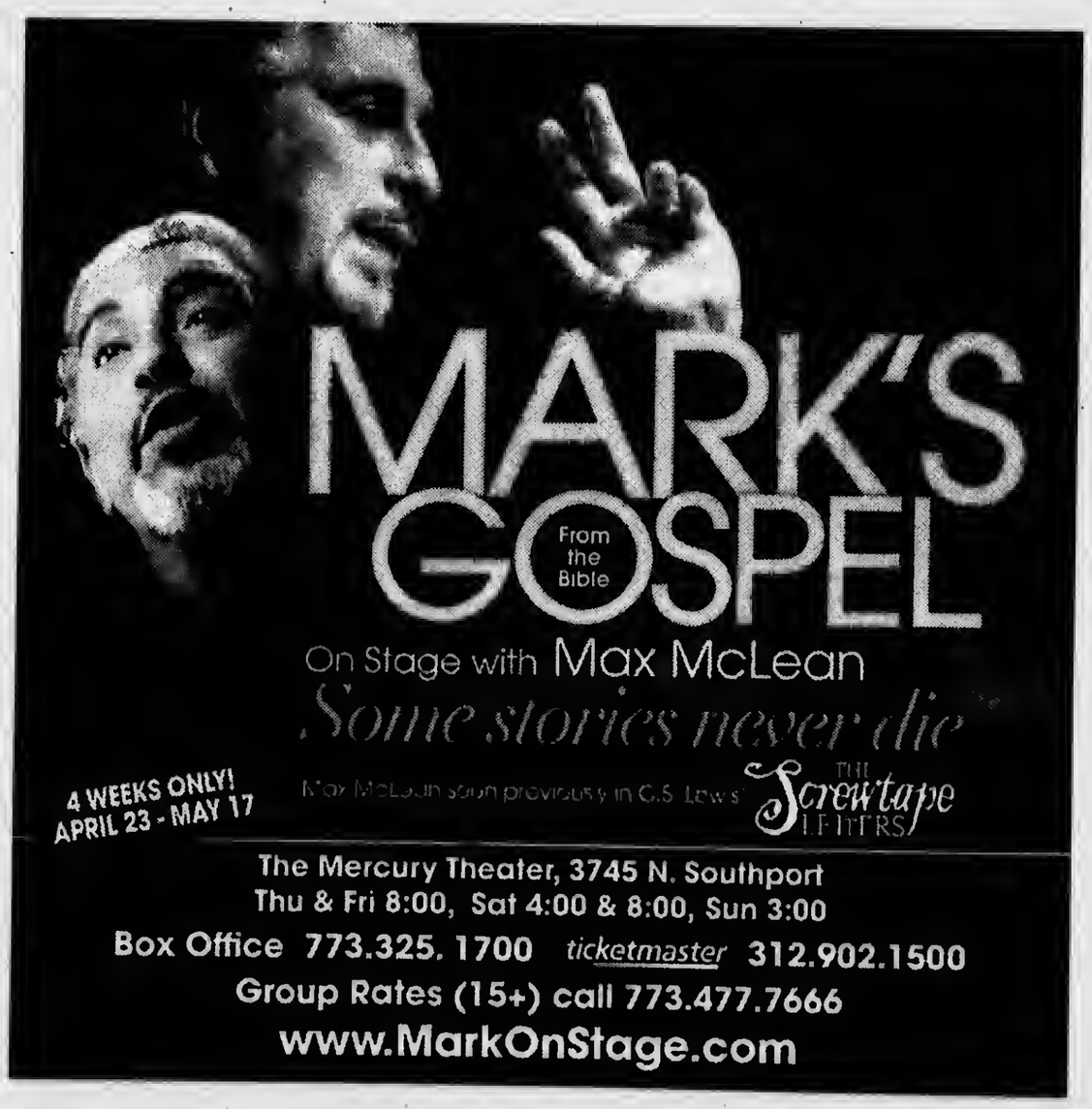
The Museum of Contemporary Arts (MCA) hosts "Windy City Rhythms Goes Global the Chicago Human Rhythm Project's National Tap Dance Day Concerts" May 29-31.

It features Brazil's Barbatuques (Afro-Brazilian chants, drumming, and stomping), Jason Samuels Smith (2004 Emmy Award and outstanding Choreography Award Jerry Lewis MSA Telethon) and BAM! CHRP our resident American ensemble that shakes the stage. The MCA stage is located 220 E. Chicago. For tickets call the box office at 312-397-4010 or visit the web www. cachicago.org.

Southwest Chapter Lyric Opera holds event

The Southwest Chapter Lyric Opera presents Mary McLaughlin an artist. Combining the creative spirit, artistic talent and patience, Mary McLaughlin is America's premiere designer of hand-painted enamel boxes, including the exclusive Lyric enamel box. It was featured in the Operathon catalogue and is available through the Opera shop.

The event is to be Sunday, April 26 at 2pm at Palos United Methodist Church located 121st Street and Harlem Ave in Palos Heights. Members are $10 and guests are $12. For information call Helen Osterman at 708-645-0019. The summer party is July 11 at Lomoro's.



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Marist students had a successful outing at 32nd Annual High School Drafting Contest. They are: Tim Malone (front row, from left), Catherine Loman, Kelly Plefka, Katherine Newhart, Drew Salzman, Dan Zalewski (back row, from left), Drew Jendra, Dan DeBold, Joe Smalzer, Jeffrey Peters, and Ryan Doidge. Not pictured: John Schultz.

32nd Annual High School Drafting Contest

The 32nd Annual High School Drafting Contest proved to be another successful outing for Marist's top drafting students in Engineering/ Graphics/CAD and Architecture. The competition was held at Moraine Valley Community College with over 100 students from the area participating in the event.

Competition was held in six different categories, such as Intro Board and CAD, Architecture CAD and Machine CAD. First and second place winners in each division advance to the state finals at Illinois State University.

Placing first in the Intro Board division were juniors Catherine Loman (Oak Lawn) and Drew Salzman (Oak Lawn), along with senior Tim Malone (Evergreen Park). In the Intro CAD division, juniors Drew Jendra (Beverly), Kelly Plefka (Morgan Park) and Daniel Zalewski (Oak Lawn) each took second place prizes. In Architectural Board, seniors Ryan Doidge (Palos Heights), Katherine Newhart (Oak Lawn) and Joe Smalzer (Palos Heights) each took first place. Finally, in Architectural CAD, senior Dan DeBold (Mt. Greenwood) took second, while fellow seniors John Schultz (Scottsdale) and Jeffrey Peters (Oak Lawn) took third place.

Celebrating 45 years of excellence, Marist High School in Chicago, is a Catholic, college preparatory school educating young men and women in heart, mind, and body.

Chicago Ridge Park District News Clips

The Chicago Ridge Park District is offering a $25 off special for annual memberships at the Frontier Park Fitness Center. This offer is good through April 30, 2009. The Fitness Center has cardio and strength machines, and includes access to the indoor walking/ running track. For more information stop in Frontier Fieldhouse at 9807 S. Sayre Avenue, or call 708-423-3959.

The Chicago Ridge Park District's BALL FORE family fun center is now open! It features a championship miniature golf course, batting cages, and a concession area. Hours are 12:00 noon - 10:00 pm Saturday and Sunday, and 4:00-10:00 pm Monday through Friday (weather permitting). Ball Fore is located at6701 W. 107th Street. For more information, call 708-671-1397.

The Chicago Ridge Park District is hosting a Golf Tournament at Ball Fore on Sunday, May 3, 2009. This tournament will beginat 12:00 noon, and is open to all ages. Ball Fore is located at 6701 W. 107th Street. For more information, stop by or call 708-423-3959.

The Chicago Ridge Park District is hosting it's "Second Annual Spring Car and Cycle Show" at Ball Fore on Sunday, May 3rd from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. There is no entry fee, and there will be a DJ, goodie bags, bean bag games, and door prizes. Ball Fore is located at 6701 W. 107th Street. For more information, call 708-423-3959.

South West Special Recreation Day Camp Registration

South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA), a non-profit organization providing recreational services for individuals with special needs, is currently taking Summer Day Camp registrations! SWSRA offers four day camps. General Day Camp is for individuals ages 3 – 21 with mild to moderate disabilities. Get Up & Go Camp is for individuals ages 18 and up who are leaving high school or working a few days a week and want time for leisure and fun. Autism Camp, new this year, is designed for ages 13-21 with primary diagnosis of Autism. Sportz Camp, also new this year, is for ages 8-13 looking to stay active in a variety of outdoor sports, games and activities. Sign up before April 24th to receive an Early Bird discount! Day Camp registration deadline is May 22. Contact the SWSRA office at 708-389-9423 for more information or go to www.swsra.com for more detailed camp descriptions.

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Out of Work? Need Help with Your Resume?

Sign up for the Bridgeview Public Library's "Job Networking Class with Joy Maquire-Dooley"

The Bridgeview Public Library will be holding a Job Networking Class on Tuesday May 5th from 4 – 8 PM.

During your time in this class, you will learn the "How To's" of job networking. You will learn how to sharpen your interviewing skills, discuss the on-line application process, tips & tricks to resume writing and so much more.

Joy Maquire-Dooley is the Director of Adult Services for Lisle Township and runs this job networking club.

Please call to register today.

(708) 458-2880 ask for Margaret.

Classified

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The Presbyterian Church in Orland Park
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Jammin' for a Cause - Bands set benefit for Together We Cope

There will be music, daneing, comedy, eocktails, raffles – even neck massages! It's a party Saturday, May 2 at Gaelic Park in Oak Forest to benefit Together We Cope, a homeless prevention agency serving families in Bremen, Orland, Palos and Worth townships.

"Mareo's Moneyshot Band" is the featured band, and "Ruff Stuff" will play as the opener. In between there will be a comedian to entertain the crowd and a masseuse will be on hand all evening to help revelers unwind.

Mareo Tellez of Blue Island said "Marco's Moneyshot Band" is a high-energy R&B band that has at its core "a smoking four-piece rhythm seetion that ineludes keyboards, bass, drums and guitar." He said the band is complemented by a hard-blowing, craekle-popping, three-piece horn seetion known as the Midcity Horns.

The "Jammin' for a Cause (Part One)" party is from 7:30 p.m. to midnight at Gaelic Park, 6119 West 147th Street in Oak Forest, with future jam parties planned later in the year. Tiekets are $20 per person (21 and older only) and can be purehased at the door or in advance from Renee Russo at Together We Cope, (708) 633-5040. There will be a eash bar.

Together We Cope is based in Tinley Park and serves families in erisis from 22 south suburbs with various forms of assistanee, including a food pantry and resale shop.

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Obituary

William G. Lammel Jr.; beloved husband of Susan nee Giermann; loving father William the III (Tierza) and Laura (Robert) MeEvilly; proud grandfather of Stacy, Benjamin, Nieholas, Robert, Daniel, William IV and Annalisa Marie; fond brother of Jude (Jim) Curtin and Cathy (Cliff) Bridgeman; also survived by nieces, nephews, family and friends. Mr Lammel, birth place was Evergreen Park, IL and he live in Mt. Greenwood, IL. He was a Operating Engineer. He was at the Kosary Funeral Home in Evergreen Park, IL 708-499-3223.

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Far South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 8

April 21, 2009

Liz Banaszak performs "Defining Beautiful" for Century Jr. High students. Century teachers Leah Wessman and Diane Forystek worked with Speech team moderator Dan Sackett in arranging the team's visit, and thought Banaszak's speech had an especially powerful message for students, one that dealt with the importance of having a positive self-image.

Carl Sandburg Speech Team visits Jr. High students

Sandburg Speech Team Visits Century Jr. High Members of the Carl Sandburg High School Speech team recently came to Century Jr. High to perform their award-winning acts for students, and also encourage them to get involved in high school activities. The Sandburg students presented the performances that helped them win the All-Sectional title in the Illinois High School Association speech competition. Visiting students included Liz Banaszak, Vicky Gajc, Amanda Levigne, Cara Prochaska,

Rummage Sale at Presbyterian

Saturday, April 25, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free Admission! The Presbyterian Church in Orland Park 13401 S. Wolf Road, Orland Park 708/448-8142

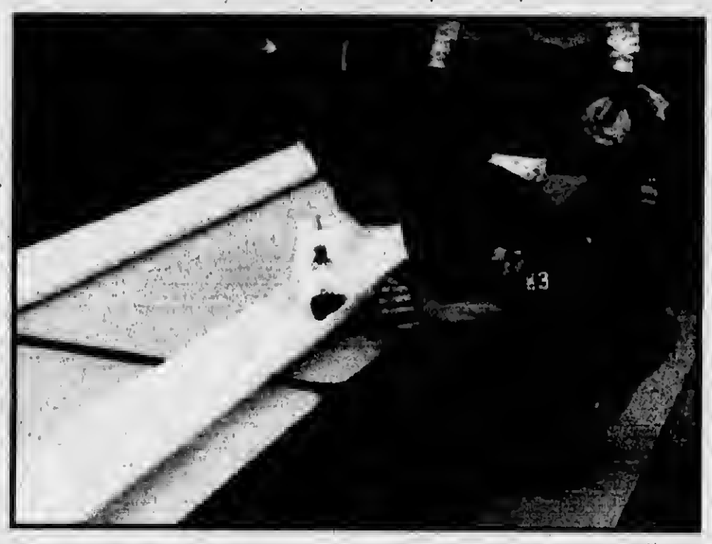
Acorn Public Library Announces Antique Appraisal Event

Oak Forest, IL – The Acorn Public Library will host noted local antique dealer Rex Newell on Thursday May 7, 2009 at 7 PM. If you are a fan of Antiques Roadshow, then this program is for you! Mr. Newell will appraise one hand-held item for the first 40 people who register for this event. However, anyone is welcome to come and watch and enjoy the fun.

Acorn Public Library is located at 15624 S. Central Avenue in Oak Forest. Interested individuals can call (708) 687-3700 to register their attendance. This program is offered free to the public.

The City of Oak Forest has been designated a Tree City USA

According to the National Arbor Day Foundation, Illinois rates second in the nation for Tree City communities. "We are extremely pleased to receive this prestigious designation," said Public Works Director Troy Ishler. "We are committed to maintaining the health of our local forests and informing our residents about the importance of caring for trees." In order to become a Tree City USA, the city passed a tree care ordinance last year. It also formed a tree advisory board, which educates the general public about proper tree planting, pruning and care; coordinates all forestry-related ordinances; plans forestry projects; and organizes special events to celebrate the environment. The Tree City USA program is a part of the Urban and Community Forestry profession and the $4.7 billion natural green industry in Illinois. Tree City USA promotes tree planting and care programs in urban areas and calls public attention to the economic, health, and aesthetic benefits trees offer. Citizen participation in community reforestation and beautification efforts is encouraged through the program.



The Raingutter Regata is one of the many pack activities hosted by Orland Park Cub Scout Pack 383. Evan Valiga (above) gives his handmade boat wind power during a pack competition. Further information about Pack 383's May 14 Spring Round Up is available at www.orlandpack383.org.

Orland Park Cub Scout Pack 383 To Host Spring Round Up

Parents of Boys in Kindergarten Through Fourth Grade Invited To Attend

ORLAND PARK , IL – Orland Park Cub Scout Pack 383 will hold its Spring Round Up on Thursday, May 14. The 7:00 p.m. parents' meeting will be held in Room 109 of the Loebe Recreation Center , 14650 South Ravinia Avenue .

"We're asking parents of boys in kindergarten through fourth grade to come to the spring round up meeting," said Cubmaster Gerry Klotz. "This is a great opportunity for parents to learn about Cub Scouts in the area and to determine whether or not they'd like their son to be a part of the program," he added. Because of space limitations, parents are asked to attend the meeting without their sons.

Cub Scout Pack 383, one of the oldest in the area, includes boys from Orland Park, Tinley Park and Orland Hills.

"We have a very active pack that holds different monthly activities for our member families. Our pack has been recognized for supporting Operation Support Our Troops – Illinois , for serving as the honor guard for Orland Park 's Memorial Day Ceremony and for helping the veterans at their annual Flag Burning Ceremony," Klotz said.

Everything in Cub Scouting is designed to have the boys doing things. Activities are used to achieve the aims of scouting—citizenship training, character development, and personal fitness.

Many of the activities happen in the den and pack. Dens, comprised of between five and ten scouts, meet weekly or every other week. The pack, which includes all of the dens, meets once a month. Along with the many Cub Scout activities, the Cub Scout Promise, the Law of the Pack and the Cub Scout sign, handshake, motto and salute all teach good citizenship and contribute to a boy's sense of belonging. Dens are led by parent volunteers.

Klotz added, "Cub Scouts is a great way for boys to learn about the world around them, to learn lifelong skills and to make friends their age. We welcome all parents to join us on May 14 to learn more about Orland Park Cub Scout Pack 383."

Further information about Orland Park Cub Scout Pack 383 is available by visiting the pack's website at www.orlandpack383.org.

Village of Orland Park to Host Civil War Re-Enactment

Historic Hostert Brothers' Cabins Provide Perfect Setting

Civil war buffs will soon be able to witness historic reenactmentsin one of Orland Park's richly historical areas.

The Village of Orland Park will host "Times of the Civil War" on Saturday, May 2nd andSunday, May 3rd at the John Humphrey Sports Complex and adjacent Hostert Log Cabins,14700 West (100th) Avenue. Reenactments will be conducted throughout the day. Skirmisheswill take place at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. daily

Named for the village's first mayor, the John Humphrey Sports Complex and the adjacent Humphrey Woods, along with thc Hostert Brothers' Log Cabins, will be transformed into an authentic military camp where guests can witness battles throughout the day between union troops, rebel forces and the home guard.

Authentic uniforms, weapons, tents and utensils will be used for the performances.

Attendees will see infantry, musket and bayonet drills and cooking demonstrations.

The Hostert brothers' log cabins were originally built in other parts of Orland Park in the mid-1800s and were re-constructed at their current locations in the 1980s.

Each cabin is furnished with original pieces from the appropriate era.

The cabins will be opened during the event with commentary provided by members of the Historical Society throughout the day.

Acorn Public Library Announces An Evening With Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln

The Acorn Public Library will host an evening performance of a play concerning Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln on Thursday April 30, 2009 at 7 PM. Local historical actors Max and Donna Daniels present this one-act play, entitled An Evening With Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln. The play takes place at the White House just before the couple's fateful trip to Ford's Theater. It is appropriate for all age levels.

Max and Donna have an extensive background in community theatre and have been portraying Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln professionally since 1988. They are past Vice-Presidents of the National Association of Lincoln Presenters and were named by thc Association as the first recipients of its award for "Best Abraham and Mary Lincoln Team" in 1994. They were featured on Chicago's Channel 7 Someone you should know.

Acorn Public Library is located at 15624 S. Central Avenue in Oak Forest. Interested individuals are encouraged to call (708) 687-3700 to register their attendance. This program is offered free to the public.

Century Jr. High hosts Internet Safety Night for Parents

On April 7, Century Jr. High welcomed parents for a special lesson in Internet Safety. It was the goal of Century's Media Specialist Lisa Weinstein to have parents leave the program with an understanding of what they can do at home to keep their teens safe on the Internet.

"Technology, such as cell phones and computers, plays such an important role in these teens' lives. It helps teens stay connected, explore their identity, and express their creative side, but all teens don't realize their actions now can affect them for the rest of their lives."

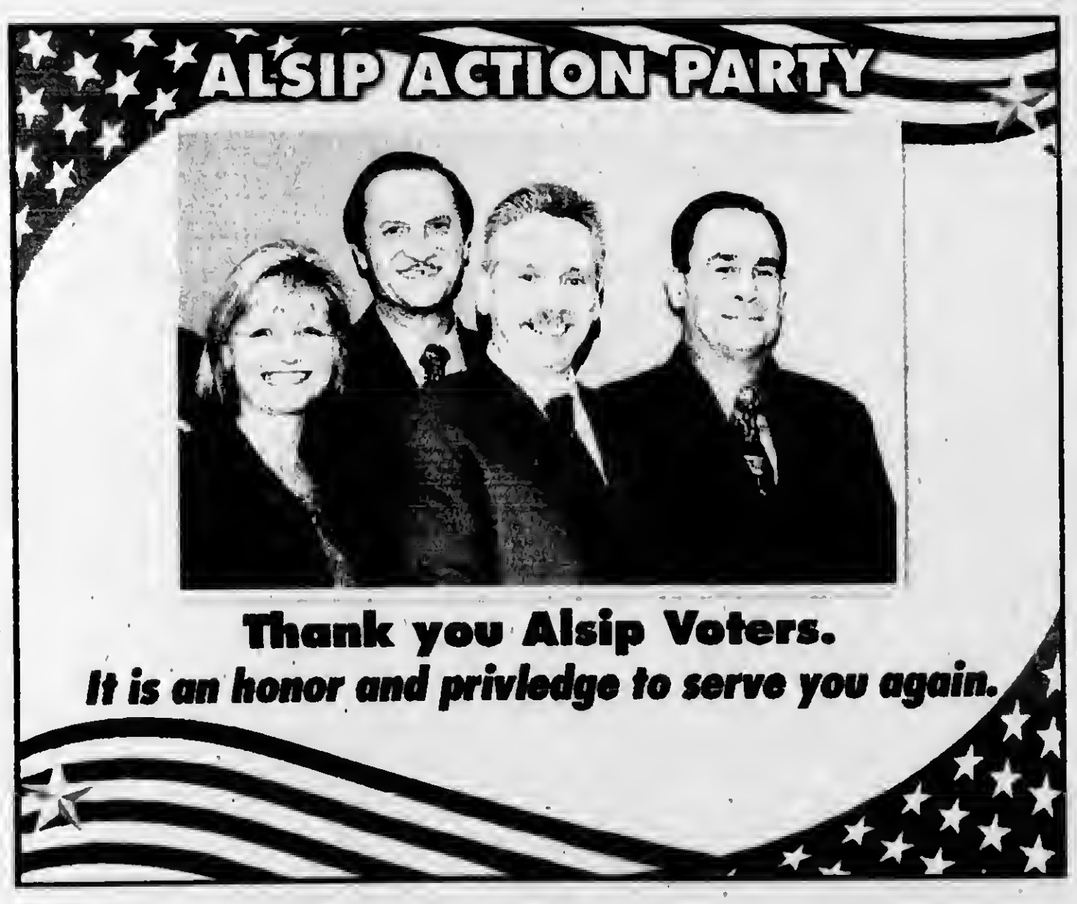
Century Jr. High student James Grabowski checks the consistency of the experiment he and fellow classmates re-created for parents - the extraction of DNA from a common strawberry.

Century Jr. High Hosts E2K+ Parent Night

Century Jr. High teachers Sue Burke and Connie Fruendt recently welcomed parents for a demonstration of the hard work completed during the year by students who are members of E2K+. Excellence 2000+ is an after-school activity created by the Illinois Math and Science Academy to challenge kids in math and science by teaching them principles through activity. Students apply to join the group, and must meet high academic standards to participate. The program is in its second year at District 135; Century Jr. High has over 50 student members. During the 2008-09 school year, students focused on two areas of study: Crime Scene Investigation and Biotechnology. For the parent night, students re-created their favorite experiments and lessons from the year and demonstrated them for the guests.

Weinstein served as a program presenter, along with Orland Park Police Officer Steve Sutherland. Weinstein and Sutherland provided an introduction to many topics related to internet safety, such as cyberbullying, internet predators, file sharing, and the consequences of posting information and photo-graphs on social network-ing sites such as Facebook and MySpace.

Weinstein noted that parents seemed surprised by the prevalence, even in the Orland Park area, of a new danger gain-ing popularity with teens: sending inappro-priate photos via text messaging. One parent seemed to sum up the evening best: "The internet can be wonderful and dangerous!"Both the school and the Police Department remarked that if their information helps protect even one child, their presentation was a success.



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South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 8

April 21, 2009

Walk, Run or Roll ½ Mile Race

Palos Bank presents the Walk, Run or Roll ½ Mile Race for individuals with special needs in conjunction with the Southwest Half Marathon. The Walk, Run or Roll Race will take place at Palos Heights City Hall, Route 83 & 76th Ave., on Sunday, May 3rd, at 7:30 a.m. Registration fee is $15 per athlete which includes a t-shirt and medal. Proceeds will benefit participating SRA's to be used for Scholarship Funds. Registration deadline is Wednesday, April 15. A registration form, medical form and waiver can be downloaded from www.swsra.com and mailed or turned into the

South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA) office located at the Apollo Recreation Center, 12521 Kostner Ave., Alsip. Participants must be age 8 or older. Please make checks out to SWSRA. Volunteers are welcome! Call the SWSRA office at 708-389-9423 for more information.

Chicago Ridge Park District programs

The Chicago Ridge Park District is hosting a Golf Tournament at Ball Fore, 6701 West 107th Street. This event will be held on Sunday, May 3rd. Entry fee is $5, and winners will receive free admission to enter the Pro Tournament in July. For more information, please call 708-423-6959.

The Chicago Ridge Park District is hosting its 2nd Annual Spring Car and Cycle Show at Ball Fore, 6701 West 107th Street. This free event will be held Sunday, May 3rd from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. There will be a DJ, door prizes and more. For more information, please call 708-423-3959.

The Chicago Ridge Park District is hosting a Pitch, Hit, and Run competition at Commissioner's Park located at 107th and Menard Avenue. This free event will begin at 1:30 pm on Saturday, April 25th. Children ages 7- 14 may enter. Each child must have a copy of their birth certificate to register. For more information, please call 708-423-3959.

The Chicago Ridge Park District is hosting a trip to the Morton Arboretum on

Friday, April 24th. The Arboretum has 1700 acres with over 4000 kinds of trees,shrubs, and other plants from around the world. The bus will leave at 10:00 am and return approximately 4:30 pm. For more information, call the Freedom Center at 708-636-4900.

The Chicago Ridge Park District's Youth Classes including Karate, Tap and

Jazz Dance, Cheerleading, Cooking, and Sports begin the week of April 20th.

Classes are for children ages 5-12. For more information, please call the Freedom Center at 708-636-4900.

The Chicago Ridge Park District's Pint Size classes Creative Painting and Growing Gourmets begin the week of April 20th. Classes are for children ages 3-5. For more information, please call the Freedom Center at 708-636-4900. Registration for The Chicago Ridge Park District's Day Camp is now open.

Day Camp is for children ages 6-14. Camp will begin on Monday, June 15th and end on Friday, August 14th. For more information please call the Freedom Center at 708-636-4900.

The Chicago Ridge Park District's 6-Week Playcamp for children ages 3-6 will begin the week of June 8th. This camp is held 2 days per week. For more information, please call the Freedom Center at 708-636-4900.

The Chicago Ridge Park District is hosting a Magic Class on Friday, April 24th.

This class is for children ages 5-12.All materials are provided, and each child receives a magic kit to take home!

Worth Park sponsor programs

The Worth Park District is sponsoring a cleanup of the Lucas Berg Pit located on 111th Street, just West of Oketo at 7601 w 111th Street. Volunteers should meet at the pit gates at 8am and are encouraged to bring gloves, garbage bags and foul weather gear. The cleanup will occur regardless of the weather. Lunch will be served to volunteers at noon. The public lands Clean up day at the Lucas Berg Pit is sponsored in part by the Army corps of engineers, and will provide volunteers an opportunity inside a beautiful hidden treasure of the southwest side. A park ranger with the Corps will be on hand to supervise the clean up. Minors must be accompanied by an adult and all participants must file a waiver before entering the pit. Waivers will be available that morning. For more information or to register please call Colleen at the Worth Park district at 708 448 7080.

Military News

Air Force Airman 1st Class Michael A. Pristave graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. He is the son of Donald Pristave of S. Depot, Worth, Ill.

Pristave graduated in 2002 from Alan B. Shepard High School, Palos Heights, Ill., and received a bachelor's degree in 2006 from Governors State University, University Park, Il.

Pictured (from left) are Sara Kent, Alice Novotney, Sarah Wandachowicz and Christina Lonosky taking a break from unloading a food delivery at the pantry. Troop co-leaders are Leann Hedger and Cathy Dee.

Girl Scout cookie money buys tuna for food pantry

Four Girl Scouts from Palos Heights Troop 60460 put their oath of service into action during a recent visit to Together We Cope's food pantry in Tinley Park. The 12-year-olds are working toward Scouting's Bronze Award and volunteered at the pantry one morning to help unload a truck delivering food.

"This part of their project was learning to be leaders and performing community service," said Leann Hedger, troop co-leader. The girls asked pantry officials what one item was most needed, and learned that tuna fish was in very short supply at this time of the year.

The girls went to lunch with their leader after their morning's labors, and decided to spend $310 of the troop's treasury to buy tuna fish for the pantry.

The funds came from cookie sales, dues and a recycling project. While waiting in the checkout line at Aldi Foods with 489 cans of tuna fish later that day, the girls were asked by a man in line about all the tuna fish.

They told him their story, and he pitched in $10 toward the cause.

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B-MAC EDITION

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 8

April 21, 2009

Blue Island Library welcomes a popular novelist

Blue Island Library's Friends Group Welcomes Author Jane Hamilton On Sunday, May 17th, at 2:00 pm.

Ms Hamilton, a close friend of Blue Island Librarian Skye Lavin, has scheduled the visit as one of the stops on a national tour promoting her newly published novel, Laura Rider's Masterpiece. Hamilton has authored five critically acclaimed national bestsellers, two of which have been selected for Oprah's Book Club. She has won the PEN/ Hemingway Award for Fiction and the N.Y. Times Notable Book of the Year honors for her past efforts. Two of her novels have been made into motion pictures, The Book of Ruth starring Christine Lahti and A Map of the World with Sigourney Weaver and Julianne Moore.

The youngest of four children, Hamilton grew up in Oak Park, Illinois in a "family of writers and intense readers". After graduating from Carleton College in Northfield , Minnesota in 1979, she married apple farmer Bob Willard and started submitting short stories to magazines she "liked"! Harper's accepted a story on her 25th birthday and the rest is history. Hamilton describes her new novel, Laura Rider's Masterpiece, as "a comedy with poignant moments."

The main character, who doesn't read, wants to be a published writer! Hamilton explained how the premise developed, "I got thinking about the aspect of our culture where people want to be artists, but don't want to do the ground work." Ms. Hamilton will appear in Christ Memorial Church , 2440 York in Blue Island , immediately across the street from the Library. Her presentation will be followed by a reception and a book signing. Christ Memorial Church is handicapped accessible. Call Dan Carroll at the Library, 1-708-388-1078 ext 30, for more information or to make a reservation.

Talk'n Politics with Kristen McQueary at Blue Island 's Library

Heavenly Home Design Tips 'n' Tricks, a Series at Blue Island's Library!

Do you want the beautiful home you've seen in magazines and on TV? Where do you start? What colors do you choose? What do you change? What do you keep? Get those questions answered when Sue Powell, the Design Pro from 'IN FOCUS DESIGN', offers you solid ideas about how to transform your home into something extraordinary in an exclusive 3 part series at Blue Island's Library ! Sue's colleagues at INFOCUS have appeared on those some of those fascinating cable TV shows, so you know the ideas you'll get must be good!

Sue will conduct a 3 part series in May. Here's the agenda

·May 6th @ 7:00 PM ... Organizing 101...Got Stuff? Lots of Stuff? What do you do with it? Learn how to reclaim your space1

·May 13th @ 7:00PM...'Staging' Your Home for Sale..."Staging" your house for sale is essential in getting your best price, especially in today's market. Learn how!

·May 20th @7:00PM ... Room Makeovers...Use what you already have to give your house a fresh look! Space is Limited, Tickets are required and may be obtained FREE at the Library's Main Desk. The Library, at 2433 York in Blue Island, is handicapped accessible. Call Dan @ 1-708-388-1078 ext 30, for more information

Talk'n Politics with Kristen McQueary at Blue Island 's Library Obama's been President for about 100 days... Burris still won't answer his phone... Quinn is keeping close watch on the Madigans...Jesse Jr'.s' being investigated by his House colleagues...Blago's been indicted... Spring elections have taken place all over the Southland...Daley is trying to focus everyone's attention on the Olympics..."Talk'n Politics" starts at 7:00 pm on April 28th. Tickets are Required and may be obtained FREE at the Library's Main Desk. The Library, at 2433 York, Blue Island. Call Dan @ 1-708-388-1078 ext 30, for more information.

(Left to Right) Jim Leibach, Steve Zook, Ken Marotzke, Karl Graff, Mike Lopez

Firefighters Celebrate 6th Annual Sertoma Centre BIG Event

Six years ago, Chicago firefighter Karl Graff saw something in the local news that really caught his eye. Something that would allow him to show off his superior cooking skills, and perhaps win first prize for one of his creations. That something was Sertoma Centre's BIG Event fundraiser and firefighter cook-off.

This year, the BIG Event will take place on Saturday May 16th from 5-9 p.m. at Bourbon Street in Merrionette Park . All proceeds will benefit programs at Sertoma Centre in Alsip , a community service agency that serves over 600 individuals with developmental, physical, emotional disabilities and/or mental illness.

Graff, in particular, has participated in the BIG Event cook-off every year, and won the traveling trophy last year for his chicken jambalaya.

"It was down to the wire," Graff said, "and I was still at home trying to cook 400 skewers, 16 at a time on my grill. By the time I got [to Bourbon Street], I swear I ran two miles back and forth from the kitchen to the grill."

When asked what the best part of the BIG Event cook-off is, Graff replied with a laugh, "Winning, of course."

His secret, he said, is that he never cooks the same dish twice and that it is important to cook a variety of dishes because, "different judges have different tastes."

Aside from the competition, Graff says that the BIG Event gives him a chance to meet and mingle with other local firefighters and even swap favorite recipes.

He is preparing another chicken dish this year, and is confident that it will be a BIG hit with the judges and the guests.

"It's nice just going every year, and hearing all the good things that people have to say about your food."

A celebrity panel will be on hand to judge each recipe's merits. Judges include ESPN Radio's Chet Coppock, WGN-TV's Dan Roan, former Chicago Blackhawk Grant Mulvey, NBC-5's Peggy Kusinski and former Chicago Bear Brian Baschnagle.

Entries will be judged on taste and presentation as well as crowd popularity, but the ultimate decision lies with the panel of judges who will crown this year's champions, and present each with one of Sertoma Centre's four traveling trophies, representing chicken, chili, ribs and ethnic dishes.

After sampling a few of these dishes, kids of all ages will be able to pose for a photo with Chicago Blackhawks mascot Tommy Hawk and participate in a number of activities including face painting and arts and crafts. Juggling extraordinaire Dave Fleming will also put in an appearance. Not to mention there is always plenty of room for more pairs of feet on the dance floor.

The event will feature entertainment by the Southsiders, the Ed Hill Band, and Erica Lozzo, and there will be plenty of chances to win BIG prizes, including the BIG Event Raffle's $5,000 grand prize.

For more information about the BIG Event or Sertoma Centre, please call (708) 371-9700 or visit us on the web at www.sertomacentre.org.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

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VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 35 Number 20

May 5, 2009

Medical alert from the Evergreen Park Fire Chief

The public should continue to monitor the news and heed the advice provided by federal, state and local health officials and their health care provider. There are everyday actions people can take to stay healthy.

·Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.

·Wash your hands with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol based hand cleaners are also effective.

·Avoid touching your nose or mouth. Germs spread that way also.

·Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

·Influenza is thought to spread mainly person-to-person through coughing or sneezing of infected people.

·If you get sick you should stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.Symptoms of Swine Flu are similar to regular human flu and include:

- fever
- cough
- sore throat
- bodyaches
- headaches
- chills
- fatigue

Some people also have reported diarrhea and vomitting associated with severe flu.

For people who have flu-like symptoms and have traveled to areas where Swine Flu has been confirmed, they should seek medical attention. However, if a person has flu like symptoms but has not traveled to areas where Swine Flu has been confirmed should stay home and contact a doctor to see if they should go in for testing.

Further up to date information can be obtained from the following web-sites. www.cdc.gov www.idph.state.il.us www.ready.illinois.gov

Photograph (L-R): Board members Daniel Janik, David Altenburg, and Melissa Slade are administered the oath of office by Judge Denise Filan.

Oak Lawn Board of Education Members Take Oath of Office

The newly elected members of the Oak Lawn Community High School District 229 Board of Education took their oath of office on Wednesday, April 29, 2009. The oath was administered by Judge Denise Filan. The new members include David Altenburg, Daniel Janik, and Melissa Slade. The board of education then held officer elections. Stephen Trotto was re-elected president, Mike Federico was elected as the vice-president, and Daniel Janik as the board's secretary.

The Board of Education members include Stephen Trotto, Mike Federico, Daniel Janik, Joseph Amado, James O'Malley, David Altenburg, and Melissa Slade.

Freshman Wins Talent Show

This year's Talent Show, hosted by Bob Beland and Tom Murphy, drew performers of all kinds. Last year's champions, "It Be Rainin Condiments," were the opening act. Third place went to Big "E" and the Faces of Funk, an ensemble of guitar, piano, drums, vocals, and interpretive dance. Second place went to the hip-hop dance group "Exclusive." Freshman Justin Prince walked away with first place for his piano solo.

The audience favorite was undoubtedly Kelli Benke, who sang a song she wrote in memory of Amanda McSheridan.

Senator Durbin's bill would leave 50 million Americans with no borrowing options

Senator Durbin introduced bill S. 500: "Protecting Consumers from Unreasonable Credit Rates Act of 2009" which would cap consumer interest rates at 36 percent. Although this sounds reasonable, it would also apply to short term loans like pawnshops. Under a 36% rate cap, when someone borrows $100 and then repays the loan two weeks later, the customer will pay $1.38 in interest on the loan. That amount of money is not enough to satisfy the Pawnshop's employee wages, storage, and paperwork costs associated with the loan.

While trying to shut down the Payday loan industry, Senator Durbin is about to destroy the 3,000 year old pawnshop business. Thousands of satisfied customers of pawnshops have signed a petition on SaveMyPawnshop.com to tell Senator Durbin: 'Thanks for lowering my interest rate, but you will put the pawn shop out of business". Pawnshops are seeing records amount of traffic to their stores, spurred by high unem-ployment and the crippling 17 month recession. However, many of these stores might be forced to close if a new senate bill is signed into law.

Millions of people rely on pawnshops to pay for unexpected hospital bills, car breakdowns, and other unforeseen expenses. If you talk to customers of a pawnshop, they will tell you that pawnbrokers are the only lenders willing to loan them money. In fact, during the great depression, the pawn shop was the only functional lender.

If pawn shops begin to close, who is going to provide these former pawnshop customers with the loans they need? In these tough times, banks are reluctant to loan money to consumers with good credit.

When Senator Durbin talks about this proposed bill, he talks about payday lenders and how the APR for these loans can be over 200%. Pawnshops, which have the additional expenses associated with storing and insuring physical items, are already one of the most highly regulated industries in America.

SaveMyPawnShop.com is asking Senator Durbin to exclude pawnshops from this bill.

Fund raising tallies project $3.3 million for March of Dimes

Pouring rain and chilly temperatures did not dampen the spirits of the 20,000 walkers on a mission to save babies at several March for Babies sites in Illinois last weekend. In Illinois , $3.3 million was raised for the March of Dimes, with the highest totals coming from the Chicago Division - $2.1 million, which includes almost $450,000 from the DuPage County walk site in Naperville .

At the Lakefront site in Grant Park, thousands of walkers were led by two Navistar sponsored trucks, cheerleaders and the Color Guard from Hubbard High School , as well as NBC5's Rob Elgas who emceed the largest walk site in the state. Also on hand were the Lakefront Ambassador Family (Craig, Terra and Hugh Close), Team Kmart (largest corporate team and sponsor) and March of Dimes board members. Other walk sites also brought in local celebrity support. FOX Chicago's Amy Freeze emceed the DuPage County walk and ABC7's Jim Rose emceed the event in Bolingbrook . Local radio personalities including WGCI's Bionce Fox, US99's Trish Biondo, FRESH 105's Mike LeBaron and WTMX's Koz hosted other walk sites throughout the area and thousands came out to walk despite the rain.

There were seven March for Babies sites in the Chicagoland area: Grant Park (Chicago), Naperville River Walk (Naperville), Pottawatomie Park (St. Charles), Sunset Woods Park (Highland Park), Busse Woods (Elk Grove Village), Midlothian Meadows (Midlothian) and Bolingbrook Promenade (Bolingbrook). These are the first projections and numbers are expected to rise next month, as of April 28, the Lakefront walk site raised $1.2 million, followed by the DuPage County site that raised almost $450,000.

Ninety cents of every dollar raised at March for Babies will go toward funding research, community services, education and advocacy in Illinois . Since 1970, March for Babies, has helped fund lifesaving research to prevent premature birth, birth defects and infant mortality. Now, in its 39th year, the March of Dimes largest fundraising event brings together thousands of families touched by premature birth, hundreds of corporate teams dedicated to support the mission, and thousands of volunteers connected through friends, families, hospitals and corporate sponsors.

The March of Dimes is the champion for all babies, and has protected their health for 70 years, beginning with funding the research that led to the prevention of polio. Today, more than half a million babies are born too soon nationwide, and in Illinois alone, more than 23,300 babies are born prematurely annually. One out of every eight babies is born prematurely in this country, and premature birth is the leading cause of death for infants in the first month of life.

The March of Dimes is the leading nonprofit organization for pregnancy and baby health. With chapters nationwide and its premier event, March for Babies, the March of Dimes works to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. For the latest resources and information, visit marchofdimes.com or nacersano.org.

Grand Opening of Oak Lawn Centennial Exhibit

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will host the grand opening of a large-scale Village of Oak Lawn Centennial Exhibit in their Local History Room on Saturday, May 16 at noon.

Members of the community can celebrate Oak Lawn's 100th birthday by stopping in to view more than 100 different photographs and artifacts, including early Village documents, Cook School items and much more. Visitors will experience Oak Lawn's rich history as never seen before in this unique exhibit that will be on display in the second floor Local History Room through December 30, 2009.

The library's Village of Oak Lawn Centennial Exhibit was made possible through the generous donation and loan of items by private citizens, businesses, schools, service organizations and government agencies. Much of the material in this exhibit is housed in the library's permanent local history archives, which is searchable at the library's web site (www.oaklawnlibrary.org).For additional information, call 708-422-4990.

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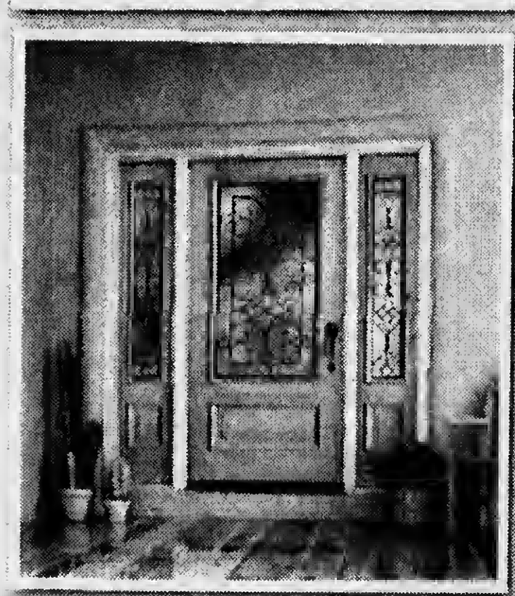

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May Commemorates Hepatitis Awareness Month

Planned Parenthood of Illinois (PPIL) announced that it will now offer TWINRIX, a vaccine to prevent Hepatitis A and B, at all 19 of its health centers. May is designated Hepatitis Awareness Month.

"Hepatitis A and B can be transmitted sexually and can have serious consequences," said Steve Trombley, PPIL President and CEO. "Anyone who has had unprotected sex and/or multiple partners is at risk of Hepatitis A and B. It's crucial that we inform people about these dangerous diseases and provide them with the resources they need to stay healthy and safe."

"We are pleased to offer a vaccine for both Hepatitis A and B that is safe, effective and virtually pain free," Trombley said. "Most appointments can be scheduled on the same day that a patient calls."

While acute cases of hepatitis A and hepatitis B have declined dramatically in Illinois since the introduction of vaccines, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there were an estimated 32,000 new hepatitis A infections and 46,000 new hepatitis B infections in the United States in 2006. Every year, an estimated 5,100 deaths occur as a result of hepatitis B, and the risk for hepatitis B can be up to 100 times greater than for HIV.

Hepatitis A and B are serious liver diseases that can be transmitted through sexual contact with an infected person or an infected needle with drug use, body piercings or tattoos. Hepatitis A can also be transmitted through contaminated food or waste.

The vaccine is given in a series of three shots. The subsequent shots are given one month and six months after the first shot, though the injection schedule can be flexible.

TWINRIX is available to men and women over the age of 18. Patients who have had multiple partners or have a history of sexually transmitted infections are at risk of hepatitis and should receive the TWINRIX vaccine.

Injections cost approximately $96 per dose and the vaccine is covered by most insurance providers, including Medicaid. Chicago residents may receive financial assistance from the Department of Public Health.

In honor of Hepatitis Awareness Month, PPIL will offer $5 off TWINRIX with a coupon at all 19 of its health centers through the end of May. Coupons can be printed from the PPIL website, www.ppil.org.

Bingo lovers can try their luck in Tinley Park

There's a new Tuesday night weekly bingo program in Tinley Park beginning on May 12th sponsored by Southwest Community Services (SCS), located at 6775 Prosperi Drive.

Bingo will take place at their location which is handicap accessible and air-conditioned. Doors will open at 5:00 pm with pull tabs and concessions available. At 6:30 pm, early bird games will start and regular bingo games begin at 7:00 pm.

Paper and computer bingo will be available. Payouts range from $100 to $500 per game. A Bumble Bee Jackpot will be played with the opportunity to win $5,000.00. Free coffee, dessert, and daubers will be offered on opening night. A grand opening will take place in June; details to be announced.

Southwest Community Services, Inc., a nonprofit organization that has been serving the south and southwest suburbs since 1971, provides services and programs that assist adults with developmental disabilities, mental illness, and physical disabilities achieve their highest degree of self-sufficiency through developmental training, social and recreational opportunities, psychosocial rehabilitation and community support options, job development and community employment opportunities.

SCS provides quality individualized therapy services, including Suit Therapy, to children and adults with neuromuscular disorders through the Phoenix Center. SCS is CARF accredited and funded in part by the Illinois Department of Human Services and United Way.

For additional information, contact Sandy Sorrentino-Bookhout, Director of Development at 708-429-1260, ext. 1243 or visit their website at www.swcsinc.org.

Don't miss The Biggest, Baddest, Most Extravagant Flea Market

Treasures will abound Saturday, May 16, in The Cancer Support Center's parking lot at 2028 Elm Road in Homewood . Sale hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Shop for furniture, books, toys, home décor, collectibles, office supplies, lawn furniture and more!

Donations of household items for the sale (but no clothing) will be accepted Friday, May 15, from noon to 4 p.m., at The Cancer Support Center. All proceeds benefit The Cancer Support Center's frec services.

Any questions, please call Nance Beele at The Village Door (708) 798-8665.

The Village Door is a donation/consignment shop of fine home furnishings at 2019 Ridge Road in Homewood. Its proceeds benefit the free programs at The Cancer Support Center.

More information is at www.VillageDoor.com or www.CancerSupportCenter.org.

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Barbara Rinella

Free invitation from Smith Village and Crossing

Barbara Rinella brings to life Winston Churchill's mother from 'American Jennie'and author Nora Ephron from 'I Feel Bad About My Neck'

Barbara Rinella, who brings books to life bydramatizing them while costumed as one of the main characters, will appear twice on Monday, May 18, in the Southland area. Both performances last one hour.

At 10:30 a.m. she will be at Smith Crossing, 10501 Emilie Lane in Orland Park (main entrance at 104th Avenue and 183rd Street). Rinella will wear the guise of Lady Randolph Churchill to dramatize, "American Jennie: The Remarkable Life of Lady Randolph Churchill," a biography by Ann Sebba. The public is invited and admission is free, but advance reservations are required—call 708-326-2300.

At 2 p.m. that day Rinella appears at Smith Village, 2320 W. 113th Place in Chicago.

There, she becomes Nora Ephron to portray the author/director's humorous life lessons as recounted in "I Feel Bad About My Neck—And Other Thoughts on Being a Woman."

The public is invited and admission is free, but advance reservations are required—call 773-474-7300.

Smith Crossing and Smith Village are inviting the public to join their residents at these programs. Smith Senior Living-sponsored communities make it possible for seniors to enjoy a vibrant, active life. They also provide a continuum of lifestyle, healthcare and housing choices designed to meet the needs of seniors as they age—independent living, assisted living, memory support and skilled nursing care.

For more information about Smith Village; visit smithvillage.org.

For Smith Crossing, visit smithcrossing.org.

Moraine Valley receives grant for new energy efficient theater lighting

In its continued effort to be a "green" campus, Moraine Valley Community College has received a grant for $53,154 from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to defray expenses related to lighting upgrades in the Dorothy Menker Theater and John and Angeline Oremus Theater in the college's Fine and Performing Arts Center.

The installation of the state-of-the-art lighting instruments could result in an annual savings in excess of 35,000 kWh. The improved lights provide a superior quality beam, so they can run at a lower wattage with the same results as the older lighting. The new lighting equipment will replace original instruments that are 15 to 20 years old and will be installed before the 2009-10 performance seas-on.

According to the Illinois Clean Energy Web site, the benefits of upgrading to efficient lighting systems include improved lighting quality, reduced operating and maintenance expenses, and saved energy, which leads to less pollution in Illinois communities. The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation invests in clean energy development and land preservation efforts, working with communities and citizens to improve environmental quality in Illinois. The Foundation supports programs and projects that will improve energy efficiency, develop renewable energy resources and preserve and enhance natural areas and wildlife habitats throughout the state. Over the last seven years, the Foundation has awarded 2,634 grants, totaling $138 million to Illinois nonprofit organizations, schools, municipalities, and other local government agencies.

Summer at Mcauley

Mother McAuley High School is offering a variety of camp and enrichment opportunities this summer. Students can sharpen their skills and enrich their studies in art, basketball, golf, running, soccer, softball, swimming, strings, tennis, technology, theatre and volleyball. Registration forms are available at www.mothermcauley.org or call 773-881-6500. Mother McAuley is located at 3737 W. 99th Street in Chicago .

Art: Session 1: June 22 - July 2, 1 to 3 p.m. (entering 3rd through 5th grade); Session 2: July 6 - 23, 1 to 3 p.m. (entering 6th through 9th grade); $150.

Basketball: Session 1: June 15 - 18, 9 to 11 a.m. (entering 1st through 4th grade) Session 2: June 15 - 18, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (entering 5th and 7th grade); Session 3: June 22 - 25, 8 to 10:30 a.m. (entering 10th through 12th grade); Session 4: June 22 - 25, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (entering 8th through 9th grade); $70.

Golf: Session 1: June 15 - 18, 9 to 11 a.m. (entering 7th through 12th grade); Session 2: June 15 - 18, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (entering 3rd through 6th grade); $70.

Kids Kamp (Theatre): June 22 - July 11, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (entering kindergarten through 9th grade); $185.

Soccer: Session 1: June 15 - 18, 4 to 6 p.m. (entering 1st through 8th grade); Session 2: June 15 - 18, 4 to 6 p.m. (entering 9th grade); $70.

Softball: Session 1: June 15 - 18, 9 to11:30 a.m. (entering 8th and 9th grade); Session 2: June 15 - 18, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. (entering 10th through 12th grade); Session 3: July 13 - 16, 9 - 11 a.m. (entering 2nd through 4th grade); Session 4: July 13 - July 16, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (entering 5th through 7th grade); $70.

Strings: Session 1: June 22 - July 2, 1 to 4 p.m. (for students already possessing the ability to read music); $150.

Tennis: Session 1: July 6 - 9, 8 to 10 a.m. (entering 1st through 5th grade); Session 2: July 6 - 9, 10 a.m. to Noon (entering 6th through 8th grade); Session 3: July 6 - 9, 3 to 5 p.m. (entering 9th and 10th grade); Session 4: July 6 - 9, 5 to 7 p.m. (entering 11th and 12 grade); $70. Note: This is a co-ed camp.

Volleyball: Session 1: July 20 - 23, 9 to 11 a.m. (entering 1st through 4th grade); Session 2: July 20 - 23, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (entering 5th through 7th grade); Session 3: July 27 - 30, 9 to 11:30 a.m. (entering 8th and 9th grade); Session 4: July 27 - 30, 9 to Noon - 3 p.m. (entering 10th through 12th grade); $70.

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OAK LAWN SENIOR HAPPENINGS

On Monday, May 18th singing sensation Peter Oprisko will perform at the Center. He is one of the most popular premiere interpreters of American popular songs. Peter has been hailed as America's best Sinatra. His program of nostalgic standards will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Following his performance at 11:00 a.m. Dr. Muhammad Hamadeh, Medical Director of the Sleep Disorder Center at Advocate Christ Medical Center will speak. His presentation will be "Sleep Apnea-

A Rude Awakening". In his presentation he will also discuss some sleeping disorders in the elderly.

On the last Thursday of every month a box lunch is planned. The success of the day is all thanks to local businesses who offer to sponsor the program. By doing so they make this day affordable to Oak Lawn seniors. This month First Bank located at 5665 West 95 Street will sponsor. With the economy in the throes of a recession, the new administration is in charge of fixing it all.

First Bank's Obamanomics 101 will help you understand what is happening, how the current administration is working to fix things, and will provide you with the information needed to make better financial decisions with the changes.

The cost for this day is $3.50 and tickets may be purchased at the Senior Center. Seating is limited.

For further details on any of the activities, you may call 499-0240, or stop by the Center, 5330 West 95 Street for a calendar of events.

Evergreen Park Library Programs

Guitar Hero at the Evergreen Park Public Library

Teens, grades 6-12 are invited to play Guitar Hero Revolution on **Wednesday, May 13th from 6:00 until 8:00 pm** at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy.

Basic Tennis Ball Massage at the Evergreen Park Public Library

Adults are invited to the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy . on Thursday, May 14th at 6:30 pm to learn an easy, effective way to relieve muscle knots and tension using a common tennis ball. Cost of the materials for the program is $2.00. Participants should bring a towel or yoga mat. For registration information: (708) 422-8522 or www.evergreenparklibrary.org

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"Kapco's 2 Buck Tuesday" new at summerfest

Milwaukee World Festival, Inc. officials are excited to announce a new partnership and program that will allow all patrons to get into Summerfest for only $2 on Tuesday, June 30, courtesy of Kapco, Inc. Summerfest is committ-ed to offering several new programs and ticket packages designed to make the event more affordable in 2009, and truly appreciates Kapco, Inc's commitment to help achieve this goal. This new program is an unprecedented Admission Promotion, offering any patron the opportunity to purchase a date-specific $2 Summerfest admission ticket good on Tuesday, June 30 from Noon until 8:00 pm. "Kapco's 2 Buck Tuesday" tickets, as well as general admission tickets, are available now via Summerfest Instant Tickets on Summerfest.com. Tickets purchased through Summerfest Instant Tickets have no additional service fees added to the purchase price and can be printed from home and purchased at any Summerfest gate on Tuesday, June 30.

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Senior prom sticker shock

By Jason Alderman

Forget college – just paying for your kid's senior year in high school can break the bank if you haven't planned carefully. While it's always a challenge to deny your kids enjoyable experiences, today's tough economy is forcing many families to make difficult decisions regarding these once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

One of the costliest senior expenses is the prom. At the risk of dating myself, my prom set me back $150, mostly for a tuxedo rental. These days, according to a Your Prom magazine survey, the average couple spends at least $1,000 – many pay much more.

It all adds up. Consider:

·New prom dresses cost from $100 to $700 or more. Plan on another couple of hundred for shoes, accessories, flowers and professionally styled hair, nails and make-up.

·A new tuxedo will set you back at least a few hundred dollars, not to mention the shirt, tie, studs and shoes you'll need. Even renting all this will likely cost $150 or more.

·Figure at least $100 an hour plus tip to rent a limousine, for a minimum of four hours.

·The national average for prom tickets varies from $50 to $150 per person, depending on venue, entertainment, meals, etc. And don't forget about commemorative photos.

·The couple probably won't want to eat at McDonalds, so figure at least $40 for a nice meal.

·After-party. This could be anywhere from a few bucks at the bowling alley to hundreds

continue on page 8

To-Do List

✓Take a vacation
✓Visit the beach
✓Eat a popsicle
✓Go to Moraine Valley

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of dollars for group hotel suites.

When Visa Inc. surveyed prom goers recently, 27 percent recalled having paid for everything themselves, 26 percent had parents who picked up the whole tab, 14 percentsplit it 50-50 with their folks and 12 percent shared the cost with their date. Bottom line: Don't feel compelled to foot the whole cost. If your kids have skin in the game, they'll quickly determine what they can and can't live without.

Here are a few cost-saving ideas:

·Shop for formal wear at consignment stores or online at sites like eBay or Craig's List. As with tuxedos, many outlets rent formal dresses and accessories for one-time use.

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split it 50-50 with their folks and 12 percent shared the cost with their date. Bottom line: Don't feel compelled to foot the whole cost. If your kids have skin in the game, they'll quickly determine what they can and can't live without.

Here are a few cost-saving ideas: ·Shop for formal wear at consignment stores or online at sites like eBay or Craig's List. As with tuxedos, many outlets rent formal dresses and accessories for one-time use.

·Have make-up done at a department store's cosmetics department. ·At the very least, split the cost of a limo with other couples. ·Team up with other parents to host a pre-prom dinner buffet or after-party.

·Take photos yourself – and buy disposable cameras for candid shots at various events. Besides the prom, you should anticipate many other senior-year expenses. Talk to recent graduates and their parents about their lessons learned; then, before the school year begins, sit down with your child and hammer out a budget. Consider expenses such as:

·College entrance exams, study guides and tutoring
·College application fees and site visits
·Senior portraits
·Graduation announce-ments
·Cap and gown
·Graduation party
·Senior trip

Use senior year as an opportunity to teach your kids about the importance of setting and sticking to a budget. Visa's free personal financial management site, Practical Money Skills for Life, features many easy-to-use budgeting tools and interactive calculators that can help (www.practicalmoneyskills.com/budgeting).

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Crazy for You plays in Munster at TAC

Their music became the soundtrack for the Twentieth Century and saw America through some of her darkest days of the Great Depression and the turmoil years of World War II.

George and Ira Gershwin music in "Crazy for You" produced standards long remembered. Who can't forget 'They Can't Take That Away from Me', 'Embraceable You' or '1 got Rhythm'. George died in 1937.

Staring in the theatre at the Center's production are Larry Adams, Matthew Amador, Sherman, Kelli Morgan, David Dennison and others. The creative team director William Pullinsi assembled includes Linda Fortuna to, choreography, Bill Underwood, music director, Brenda Winstead, costume design, Denise Karczewski, lighting design, Kevin Barthel, wig and makeup design, Libby Fandrei, props designer, and Barry G. Funderburg, sound designer. Ann Davis is the technical director.

Performances are Wed and Thurs at 2pm ($36), Fri at 8pm ($40), Sat 8pm ($40), and Sun at 2:30pm ($40) and select Thurs at 7:30 and Sat at 2:30pm. To purchase tickets call the box office at 219-836-3255. It is located at TAC home The Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, 1040 Ridge Road in Munster, Ind, 35 minutes from Chicago.

Drury Lane Oakbrook presents Pump Boys and Dinettes

The popular Rock and roll, Country and Blue Grass music revue "Pump Boys and Dinettes previews May 28 and opens June 4 through Aug 2 at Drury Lane Oakbrook. The play received a Tony-Award nomination for best musical in 1982 and a Drama-Desk Award nomination from its Broadway run in 1981-82.

It is a toe tapping totally entertaining musical to life along the open road. The pump boys are Shaun Whitley, Jesse Kazemek, Alan Bukowiecki and Brian Burke. The sassy dinettes are Tammy Mader and Liza Janie.

The creative team assembled includes Director, Shawn Stengel, Malcolm Rule, Musical Director, Choreographer, Tammy Mader, Christopher Ash, Scenic/Lighting Director, Kirstin Ligeski, Costume Designer and Sound Designer, Dan Mead.

Performances are Wed at 1:30pm ($29), Thurs at 1:30pm ($29) and 8pm ($33), Fri at 8:30pm ($35) and Sun at 2pm ($35) and 6pm ($33). Dinner packages are available.

For reservations call 6330-530-0111 or visit the web www.drurylaneoakbrook.com.

Andrea Bocelli comes to the Allstate Arena with his 2009 Incanto Tour

Superstar tenor Andrea Bocelli will make a rare Chicago-area appearance at the Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road in Rosemont Friday, June 12 at 8 p.m. as part of a U.S. tour celebrating the release of his acclaimed new album "Incanto."

The concert will feature songs from his "Incanto, a Decca/Sugar Records release, which has been hailed as a romantic tour-de-force, featuring Bocelli's glorious sound in perfect complement to the rich and sonorous tradition of classic Italian love songs.

Now at the height of an incredible career that unfolded a decade ago, the "Incanto" tour is a personal tribute to the great musical traditions of his homeland and an homage to great tenors he admires. "These songs have been part of my life since I was a child," says Bocelli, "pop singers as well as operatic tenors have measured themselves against this repertoire."Concert highlights include the classics "Because," "Mamma," "Granada," "Funiculí Funiculá" and many other favorites.

An iconic figure in music, who has sold more than 60 million albums to date, Bocelli continues to defy categorization, age barriers and labels of all kinds. For more information visit andreabocelli.com.

Tickets to Andrea Bocelli's "Incanto" concert June 12 at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont go on sale Sunday, March 29 at 12 noon. Tickets range in price from $75 - $325 and can be obtained at the Allstate Arena box office, at all Ticketmaster outlets, by calling Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000 or online at Ticketmaster.com.

Doody's Doodlings

by Marijo Doody

The Fellowship for the Performing Arts presents the Chicago Premier of "Mark's Gospel" staring Max McLean in a limited engagement through May 17. He starred in the current smash hit "Screwtape Letters." He is known for giving compelling performances and the story of Jesus should be a surprise. McLean hopes to redeem himself from the letters. The venue is Mercury Theatre, 3745 N Southport. Performance schedule is Thurs-Sun with performances at 8pm evenings (not Sun) and Matinees Sat (4pm) and Sun (3pm). Tickets range $29-$48.50. Call the box office 773-325-1700. .

Profiles Theatre presents the final production of the 20th Anniversary Season the comedy/drama "Graceland" by Ellen Fairey in a world premiere directed by Matt Miller. The show's backdrop is the fames cemetery in Chicago and when lives collided with the Blue Angels show one August. The show runs May 22-27 (Previews) through May 28-June 28 at 8pm Thurs, Fri and Sat and 7pm on Sun. Call 773-549-1815 or visit online www.profilestheatre.org. The theatre is located 4147 N Broadway.

Season of Men with the Primiere of A Tribute to the Black Crooner

The Black Ensemble Theater Company is thrilled to conclude its Season of Men with the World Premiere production of "A Tribute to the Black Crooner" (Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow). Written by Black Ensemble Theater Associate Artistic Director Rueben Echoles and Dawn Bless, directed by Echoles, and produced by Jackie Taylor, "A Tribute to the Black Crooner" (Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow) pays homage to the music of the legends who paved the way, while celebrating the most popular crooners of today and helping to shape the crooners of tomorrow.

Billy Eckstine, Nat King Cole, Roy Hamilton, Joe Williams, Johnny Mathis, and the legendary Arthur Prysock are some of the familiar names of the Black crooner age, but there were other great voices too. Al Hibbler, Jimmy Scott, and many others were also responsible for keeping the classic sound of the Black crooner alive. The tradition is continuing today through the artistry of John Legend, Brian McKnight, Musiq Soulchild, and the popular Luther Vandross. These phenomenal voices and a few others will be featured in

"A Tribute to the Black Crooner" (Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow).

"A Tribute to the Black Crooner" (Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow) will be staged Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m., and is expected to play until August 16, 2009. Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6 at 8:00 p.m. Discounts are available for students, seniors, and groups. Tickets are available by calling the Black Ensemble Theater Box Office at 773-769-4451, or Ticketmaster at 312-902-1500, www.ticketmaster.com. Group Tickets are available by calling 773-769-4451. All performances will take place at The Black Ensemble Theater, 4520 N. Beacon in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood.

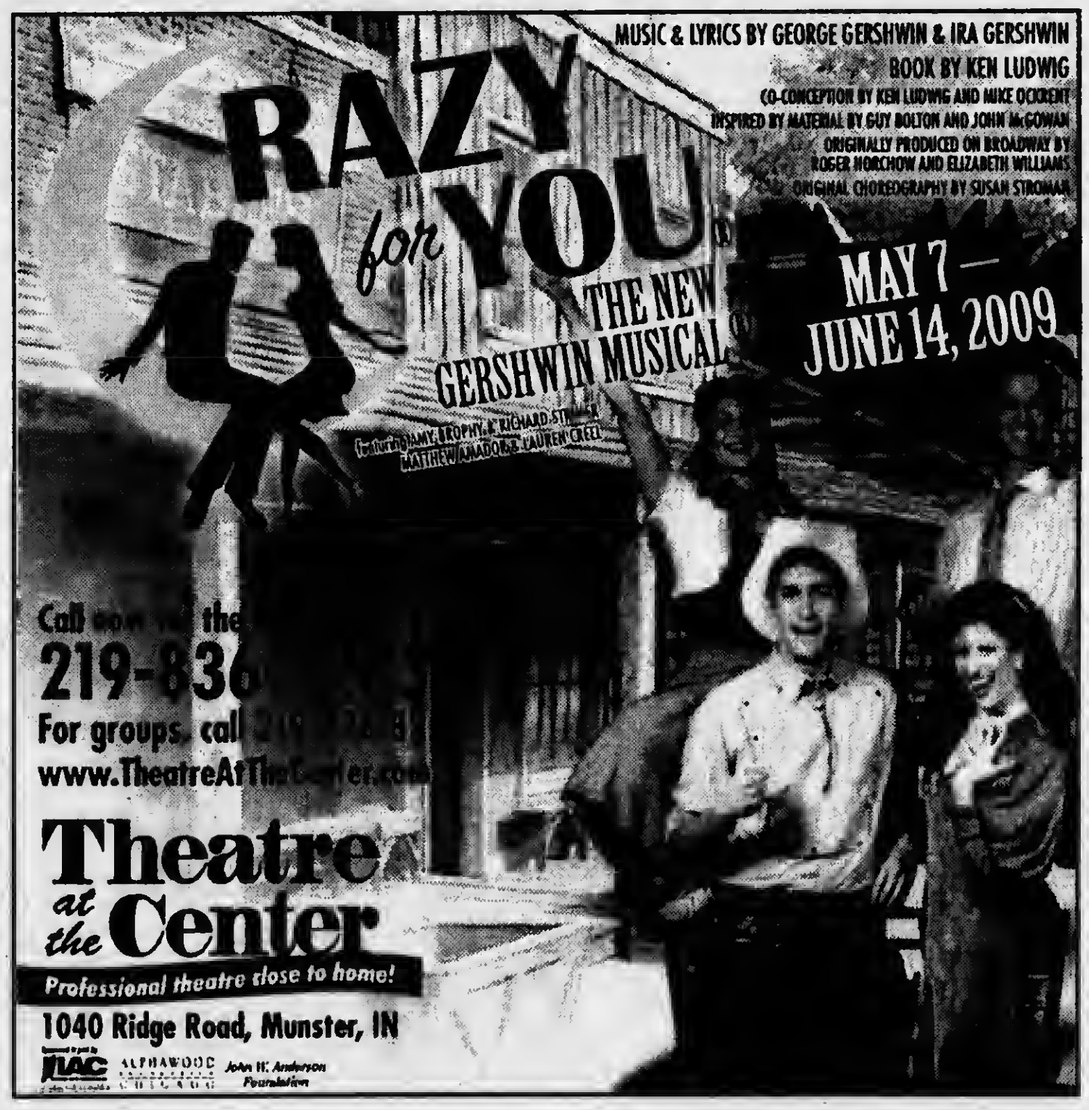
Chicago Shakespeare announce 2009-10 season

A season of love and ambition with charming villains and feuding lovers fill the stage. CST Artistic Director Barbara Gaines and Executive Director Criss Henderson announce the following productions for the new season. Subscription series includes "Richard III", "Private Lives" and "The taming of the Shrew." Tickets begin at $120 for series.

The World Stage Series includes "Ilioyopie"(French troupe creates waterborne theater wonders), Druid (an Irish premiere theatre company) presentation "The Walworth Farce" and commemorating the 150th anniversary Anton Checkhov birth "Uncle Vanya" presented by Maly Drama Theatre of St. Petersburg.

This summer CST creates a new production of Disney's "Aladdin" and "Short Shakespeare! The Comedy of Errors" in the children theatre programming.

For further information on all CST productions or to purchase tickets visit online at www.chicagoshakes.com. The theater box office number is 312-595-5600. CST is accessible to public transportation at Navy Pier.



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Peace Recognizes Winter Athletes with Awards

The Queen of Peace High School Athletics Department recognized the following students for their excellence in athletics at the 2008-09 winter sports banquet award ceremony.

Mary Ellen Wood of Palos Heights was recognized with the frosh basketball leadership award.

Sophomore Katherine Mullen of Oak Forest was recognized with the Ron Bal JV Leadership Award.

Jill Lipman, a senior from Chicago (3000 West 107th), was recognized as the most valuable player of the varsity basketball team.

Junior Allison Kirwan of Burbank was recognized for being the most improved varsity athlete during the 2008-09 basketball season.

Mary O'Malley, a senior from Burbank, was recognized with the varsity leadership award in basketball. This award is presented to an athlete who excels in the classroom, on the court and is active in a variety of co-curricular activities.

Senior Carla Uhlarik of Justice was recognized as the winter scholar athlete.

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Moraine Valley Library Wins National 'Excellence' Award

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) has selected the Moraine Valley Community College Library as the recipient of its 2009 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award for the community college category. The award, which also is sponsored by Blackwell's Book Services, recognizes the staff of a community college library for programs that deliver exemplary services and resources to further the educational mission of the institution.

Moraine Valley 's Library was chosen for its creativity and innovation in meeting the needs of its constituents and for creating an environment that fosters numerous relationships with partners outside of those traditionally associated with libraries. Erika Linke, president of ACRL, and Mike Arnold, regional director of Blackwell's Book Services, recognized the Library staff with a plaque and $3,000 on April 15.

According to Linke, Moraine Valley 's Library won for being student-centered, focusing on student success, creating programs and services that support building lifelong learners, and supporting in-person and distance learning through programs such as the One Book, One College program and the annual Library Summit. "It's a great honor to bestow this award to Moraine Valley ," said Linke. "The staff take the message of community to heart and are all focused on creating a positive environment for students. They work together and share together to create a formidable team."

Arnold echoed her sentiments, "You are among the best. To win this award, a library must have a deep collection, strong leadership, and a solid staff. I've seen all of this at the highest level here. I offer my hearty congratulations to Moraine Valley ."

Dr. Sylvia Jenkins, dean of Academic Development and Learning Resources, accepted the award on behalf of the Moraine Valley Library staff. "This is truly an honor for us. You can tell when people love where they work, and the work of my staff shows how much we love what we do. Everyone here is supportive of one another," said Jenkins.

The Library also will be recognized at the ACRL President's Program during the American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago this July.

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† Special offer ends 6/30/09.

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Far South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 9

May 5, 2009

The top four winners of Orland Park Cub Scout Pack 383's Pinewood Derby included Rohan Shah, of Wolf Den #10, winning first place; Ryan Windle, of Bear Den #7, winning second place; Robert Medlicott, also of Wolf Den #10, winning third place and Christopher Pearson, of Bear Den #8, winning fourth place.

Cub Scout Pack 383 Hosts Annual Pinewood Derby

Cub Scout Pack 383 held its 2009 Pinewood Derby in the show room of Joe Rizza Ford in Orland Park on Sunday, April 26. A racing event for Cub Scouts, the derby calls for scouts, with the help of parents, to build their own cars from wood. Car kits include a block of pine, plastic wheels and metal axles. Boys sand, design, assemble and paint the cars, keeping them within race guidelines and rules.

"Pack 383 is grateful to everyone at Rizza Ford for allowing us to again hold the derby in their show room," said Pack 383 Cub Master Gerry Klotz. "They graciously clear the area for our track and families and everyone has a great time creating lifelong memories," Klotz added.

More than 60 cars were created by the pack's member scouts with the top two winners in each scout level winning medals. The four final winners among the fastest cars from all levels of scouts received race trophies.

Orland Park Cub Scout Pack 383 includes boys from Orland Park, Tinley Park and Orland Hills. Further information about the pack is available at www.orlandpack383.org.

The Presbyterian Church in Orland Park as part of Armed Forces Sunday

May 17th at the 10:00 a.m. worship service, honored will be the dozen church members family members presently serving in the military. Following the service, dinner with the 2009 confirmation class will be enjoyed. Also, the Appalachia Service Project youth and leaders will meet in preparation for their July ASP project in Scott County , Tennessee.

Also, on Sunday, May 17, 2009 at 4:00 p.m., the third annual Choral Concert will be presented by the Celebration Singers and Celebration Ringers of The Presbyterian Church in Orland Park. Directed by Larry Deweese, Minister of Music and Charles Worth, Accompanist, musical highlights of the past year will include a variety of genres from classical to gospel to contemporary.

Early Act Decorates Rain Barrels to benefit open lands

On a recent Saturday morning (April 25, 2009) volunteers from the Rotary Club of Orland Park teamed up students from Rotary's EarlyAct Club at Century Junior High to paint rain barrels to benefit the Orland Park Open Lands Fund Commission. The decorated rain barrels will be auctioned off to the general public at the June 28, 2009 Open Lands Garden Walk at noon. Proceeds will be donated to the Open Lands Fund in Orland Park .

The EarlyAct Club (a junior high school version of the Rotary Club) was formed three years ago under the direction of debi Ross, and is comprised of 6th, 7th and 8th grade students of Century School . The students participate in a number of service projects throughout the school year. Lou Mulé, a fellow Rotarian and Chairman of the Open Lands Fund Commission, presented the project as a dual Rotary/ EarlyAct/Open Lands collaboration.

Remembering the mission of the Open Lands Fund Commission, the students suggested themes for the barrels: Sunrise Over Native Prairie Grasses, Tree Frogs in the Rain Forest, Multicultural Children, The Four Seasons, Bird Houses and Native Birds, and Native Americans.

These themes were presented to local artist Andrea Verbeek who turned the themes into three dimensional concepts that could be applied to the barrels. The students then followed Andrea's concepts to fruition, adding their own special touches in painting the barrels. Further artistic guidance was provided by James Hering.

One rain barrel currently occupies a place of prominence at Century School and the others will appear in a variety of Orland Park public locations prior to the auction. These barrels and others painted by the Rotaract Club of Trinity Christian College , Palos Heights , will be auctioned off at the Open Lands Garden Walk at the Orland Park Civic Center. Undecorated rain barrels are currently being sold by the Village of Orland Park as a fundraiser for Open Lands. The Rotary Club of Orland Park services the communities of Orland Park, Palos Park and Palos Heights .

Orland Township presents Milwaukee by Land and Sea

On this tour you will explore Milwaukee with a professional step-on guide, learning about the city's history, its people, ethnic culture and much more. Then we will board the Edelweiss for lunch and a sight seeing tour on the Milwaukee River through downtown and out to Lake Michigan where we will enjoy the beautiful views of the Milwaukee skyline. Plan on joining us on Monday, June 15, 2009, for this informative and relaxing day. Tickets are available at the Orland Township Office, 15100 S. 94th Avenue , Orland Park . Resident tickets are $92.00 and non-resident tickets are $97.00.

Ticket price includes deluxe motor coach transportation, professional local step-on-guide, river tour and lunch. Busses will leave from the north side of 151st Street , directly west of the Bank Financial parking lot, at 7:00 a.m. and return approximately at 6:00 p.m.

Orland Township serves the communities of Orland Park, Orland Hills, the western half of Tinley Park, and the unincorporated area of Orland Township . Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday evenings until 6:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Kathy Kenyeri, Senior Services Coordinator, or Jan Licata, Senior Services Assistant, at (708) 403-4222.

Attention,
VFW'S, American Legion, Elk's Lodge, Kiwanis, and other organizations,
are you having a Special Memorial Day event.
Let
us know so we can discuss advertising your event.
Call for Linda for details 312-624-8996.

Taste of Orland Park Karaoke contest

Orland Park Restaurants Invited to Participate in Annual Contest ORLAND PARK , IL – The Village of Orland Park will host the annual Taste of Orland Park on July 31, August 1 and 2.

The three-day event features live entertainment, great food, Kids' Day and more. One of the most popular events at the Taste of Orland is the Karaoke Contest. Orland Park restaurants are invited to participate in this annual competition.

Restaurants conduct their own karaoke contests from June to mid-July. Three to four winners from each establishment will be chosen to compete at the semi-finals on Thurs. day, July 16 at one of the participating establishments.Twelve semi-finalists will go on to the final competition at the Taste of Orland Park on Sunday, August 2. All participating restaurants will be recognized at the Taste and listed in promotional advertising. The competition is open to Orland Park establishments only. Donna Kouba, Karaoke Coordinator for the Taste of Orland Park at 708-403-6270.

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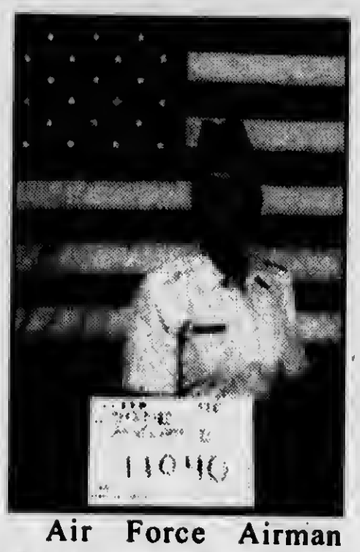
Military News



Air Force Airman Angelique D. Shine graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. She is the daughter of Irene Shine of S. Throop St., Calumet Park, Ill., and sister of Ursula Shine of S. School St., Riverdale, Ill. Shine is a 2008 graduate of Harold L. Richards High School, Oak Lawn, Ill.

Army Pvt. Desmond Clemons has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises. He is the son of Berna Clemons of Turner Ave., Midlothian, Ill. The private is a 2006 graduate of Bremen High School, Midlothian.

Moraine Valley Forensics team wins silver

There's no argument that the Moraine Valley Community College Forensics team is one of the top speech teams in the country. The team secured the silver medal, and four individuals won medals, at the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament held April 6-11 in Portland , Oregon . The team also won a gold medal at the regional tournament and placed second at the Illinois state tournament. The Phi Rho Pi National Tournament is one of the oldest forensics competition in the United States . This year marked the 75th national tournament,where Moraine Valley competed against more than 500 participants from 79 teams. This is the sixth consecutive year the college has finished in one of the top three spots earning either a gold, silver, or bronze medal.

Forensics team members Tommy Molloy and Matt Weibel, both of Oak Lawn , each earned gold medals in the Speech to Entertain event. Molloy also won a bronze medal in the Impromptu event, and Weibel won a silver medal in Program Oral Interpretation and a bronze medal for Duo Interpre-tation. They were joined by silver medal winner Kim Saltin, of Alsip , for Speech to Entertain, and Antonio Zhurinskas, of Chicago Ridge, who earned bronze medals in Duo Interpretation and Dramatic Interpretation.

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South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 9

May 5, 2009

Chicago Ridge Park District announces programs

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE class.

This 6-week class is great for the beginner or anyone needing to 'brushup' on their skills. Wonderful opportunity for parents to learn alongside their children. Ages 10 and up. For more information, please call 708-636-4900.

The Chicago Ridge Park District is hosting a KITE FLY event on Saturday, May 9th. This is a statewide event to create awareness of parks, recreation, and Park District Youth License Plates. This event is free to the public— don't forget to bring your kites!

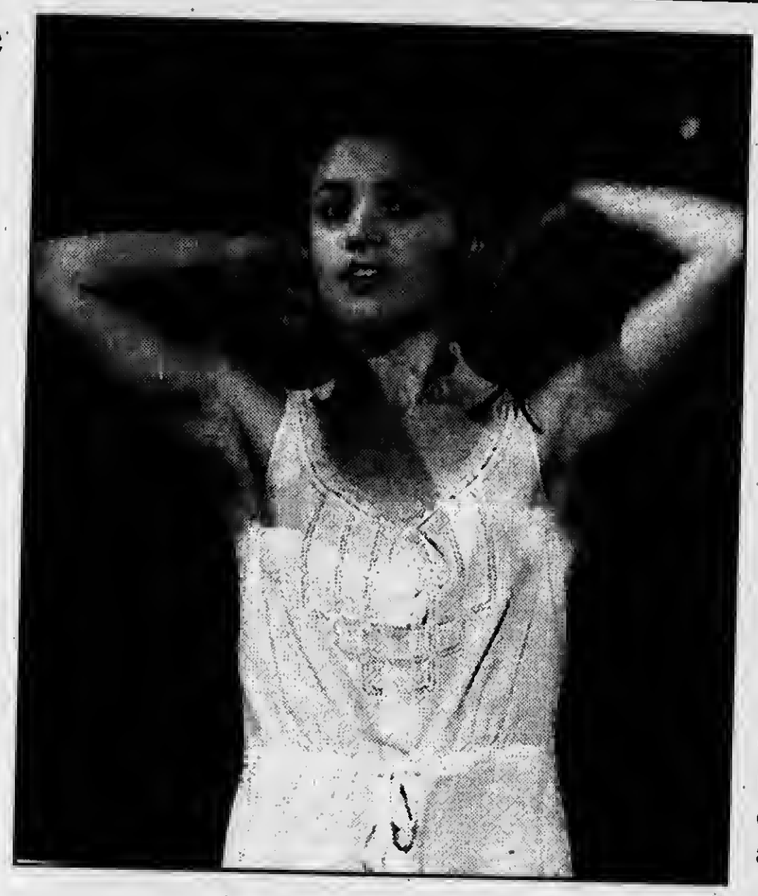
For more information, call 708-636-4900.

The Chicago Ridge Park District still has openings for 3-1/2 - 6 year old children in the T-BALL class. This non-competitive 6-week program will teach children basic game skills, including hitting, fielding, and teamwork. For more information, please call 708-636-4900.

The Chicago Ridge Park District is hosting a JUNIOR OLYMPICS event May 11th.

This competition provides youngsters an opportunity to participate in an exciting multi-sports skills competition and advance to regional and national levels.

For more information, call 708-423-3959.



Tony Award Winning Play

Broadway In Chicago is thrilled to present Broadway's most talked about new musical and the biggest Tony Award®-winner in years this summer. Spring Awakening, the 8-time Tony Award® winning Broadway musical, will play the Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Oriental Theatre (24 W. Randolph St.) for a limited engagement, August 4 to 16, 2009.

Spring Awakening swept the 2007 Tony Awards® winning eight out of its eleven nominations, including Best Musical, Best Director (Michael Mayer), Best Book (Steven Sater), Best Choreography (Bill T. Jones), Best Orchestrations (Duncan Sheik), Best Lighting Design (Kevin Adams), Best Featured Actor (John Gallagher Jr.).

Set against the backdrop of a repressive and provincial late 19th century Germany, **Spring Awakening** tells the timeless story of teenage self-discovery and budding sexuality as seen through the eyes of three teenagers. Haunting and provocative, **Spring Awakening** celebrates an unforgettable journey from youth to adulthood with a power, a poignancy and a passion you will never forget.

"A miracle that must be seen to be believed ... The best new musical in a generation."

John Heilpern, *The New York Observer*

Set design is by Christine Jones, costume design is by Tony Award-winner Susan Hilferty, lighting design by Tony Award-winner Kevin Adams and sound design by Brian Ronan.

SPRING AWAKENING is a powerful coming of age story with mature themes: sexual situations, partial nudity and strong language.

The performance schedule for **SPRING AWAKENING** at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Oriental Theatre is as follows:

Tuesday, August 4 at 8 PM Tuesday, August 11 at 7:30 PM

Wednesday, August 5 at 7:30 PM Wednesday, August 12 at 2 PM and 7:30 PM

Thursday, August 6 at 7:30 PM Thursday, August 13 at 7:30 PM

Friday, August 7 at 8 PM Friday, August 14 at 8 PM

Saturday, August 8 at 2 PM and 8 PM Saturday, August 15 at 2 PM and 8 PM

Sunday, August 9 at 2 PM and 7:30 PM Sunday, August 16 at 2 PM

Tickets range in price from $25 to $95 and are currently available online at www.BroadwayInChicago.com.

Summer Concerts in Palos Heights

Palos Heights Park and Recreation is having 6 Summer Concerts at Memorial Park Gazebo, located at 7607 West College Drive, in Palos Heights, IL. In the event of rain, the concerts will be held at the Palos Heights Recreation Center at 6601 West 127th Street, Palos Heights, IL. Concert time is from 6:30p.m. to 8:00 p.m Bring your own seating, blankets, or chairs, or snacks to. If you need more details call 708-361-1807. Concerts can usually be viewed on our local Cable Channel 4 after the event.

The Entertainment dates are as follows:

Sunday, June 14th, 2009 Juke Box Band —No money needed.

Wednesday, June 24, 2009 Tin Horse [Southern Rock with Country Flair]

Sunday, July 12, 2009 Joan Hammel [Popular Hits from Yesterday or Today]

Wednesday, July 22, 2009 Maddrum [Caribbean Latin Jazz — Island Music]

Sunday, August 9, 2009 Girl Next Door [Tribute to Woman of Rock]

Wednesday, August 19, 2009 Breeze [Instrumental Jazz Duo]

S.A.L.T. Senior Academy of Learning at Trinity

Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights offers a wide selection of classes this spring to stimulate learning for those 55 and older to enrich their lives, foster relationships, and strengthen the community.

S.A.L.T creates an opportunity for individuals to share their knowledge, experience, and talents. The selection for this spring begin in April and include an Internet course and one on creating digital photos on your home computer. Or this may be your chance to learn how to crochet or take a class on Yoga. For more information contact Ruth De Bruyn, Development Coordinator at 708-239-4827

Sertoma Centre will host annual event

Sertoma Centre will host their 6th Annual BIG Event on Saturday, May 16th from 5-9pm at 115 Bourbon Street, 3359 W. 115th Street, Merrionette Park. The Big Event hosts firehouse chefs from Chicago and surrounding suburbs to compete in a Cooking Competition.

The Chefs and their food are the stars for the night but there will be plenty of other activities including live entertainment, the opportunity to purchase arts and crafts, kids activities, and raffles. Adults: $10 for ten food tickets, children 12 and under: $5 for five food tickets. Additional food tickets are available for purchase.

For more information call 708-371-9700 or on the web at www.sertomacentre.org

Transitions has open house

The old Youth Service Bureau has now become the new Transitions. Transitions does Counseling Resources, Learning Web, and Outreach Programs. Come to the Open House on Sunday afternoon, May 17th, 2009 from 1 p.m. to 4p.m. at 10432 South Oxford Avenue, in Chicago Ridge. You can enter the Oxford side of the Municipal Complex. For more details call 708-636-0888.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

B-MAC EDITION

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 9

May 5, 2009

Pictured from left to right are Commissioners Terrence J. O'Brien, President of the M.W.R.D. of Greater Chicago, Gloria Alitto Majewski and Frank Avila.

Get your rain barrels at Metropoitan Water Reclamation District

Commissioner Terrence J. O'Brien, President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago recently stated that "rain barrels are key to water conservation efforts". " The Districts 55 gallon rain barrel is a frost proof, durable plastic resin container that collects and stores rainwater from you rooftop (via your home's disconnected downspout) for later use on your lawn or garden and other outdoor uses. The water stored can be used for watering plants, cleaning gardening tools, supplying fountain water, wiping off debris on outdoor furniture, or any other purpose where non-potable water is an option.

By using rainwater, treated tap water is conserved. In addition, rain barrels reduce soil erosion by controlling water flow from the downspout during a rainstorm. Your rain barrel comes with a mosquito-proof screen under the lid. The Rain Barrels are available for $40 on www.mwrd.org. Sales are pre-paid only, no on site cash or check sales will occur. Sales are on line only through the above website with a credit or debit card.

Pick ups may occur during the first week of the month at the Stickney Plant, 6001 W. Pershing Road . If you have any questions, call our Public Affairs Office at 312 751-6633.

Midlothian Public Library News Letter

Midlothian Public Library wishes to thank all volunteers and patrons who made the Egg Hunt and Big Read Chinese Scroll programs successful. Over 105 patrons enjoyed hunting for candy filled eggs on Good Friday morning. More patrons enjoyed creating art of Chinese origin during National Library Week in April.

.Job Club Meetings

The job club network meetings will be held at Midlothian Library on Tuesday, May 5th and Tuesday, May 19th from 1PM to 3PM .

Computer Class

Learn how to create, send and receive email on Saturday, May 16th, from 9AM – 10AM . Please register in advance.

Teen Book Discussion

Teens are welcome to discuss the book titled 13 Little Blue Envelopes, by Maureen Johnson on Monday, May 18th at 6:30PM

Knit Wits

This knitting group meets every Wednesday at 10AM in Midlothian Library. Join them and create fun and useful things.

Story Time

There will be no story time for the month of May as we prepare for the Summer Reading Program. Parents please continue reading with your children.

Summer Reading Program

Registration for the children's and young adult's reading programs will begin June 1st. The programs operate from June 8th to July 27th. Participants must live in Posen or Midlothian and have Midlothian library cards.

Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library

May Programs for Adults

All programs will be held in the library's lower level meeting room. The library is located at 11960 S. Pulaski in Alsip . Registration is required for all programs call 708/371-5666.

Our 3rd Senior Day !

11:00 a.m. -11:30 MetroSouth Medical Center

Eileen Hampson will talk about Home Care and Nancy Roesner will talk about Hospice Care. MetroSouth Medical Center

Jill Wolf will talk about the services of the hospital, blood pressure, blood sugar & cholesterol.

Free screenings will be available after her presentation.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 Lunch in the library

Provided by the Library

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 AgeOptions

Elizabeth Lough (I & A Team Leader/Red Tape Cutter Specialist) will talk about how to access

services & programs in Suburban Cook County , Illinois .

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois

Diane Adduci will talk about Medicare 2009.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 CUB (Citizens Utility Board)

Shari Currie will talk about phone bill savings. Bring in your home cell phone bills to see if you can lower your payments.

Sing-A-Long

With Mary K. Kalfas

Thursday, May 14 at 1:30 P.M.

At the Heritage II Clubhouse

3715 W. 123rd Place , Alsip

The library is once again sponsoring an afternoon of music at Heritage II Clubhouse. Mary K. Kalfas will perform such favorites as Chattanooga Choo-Choo, It Had to Be You, and Carolina in the Morning. Songbooks will be provided for those who want to Sing-A-Long. Light refreshments will be served

PLOWS announces new President on executive board

PLOWS is very proud to introduce JoAnn Gruca, R.N., Phd., G.N.P. New President of PLOWS" Executive Board Dr.Gruca brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to her new role as President of the Executive Board. She has served PLOWS for more then twenty years as a member of the board and as board secretary.

Her goal as president will be to advance the work of the organization, adding that PLOWS has prospered under excellent leadership from the entire board and dedication of the staff. Her focus is on quality of life issues for older Americans who are struggling to keep up with changes in the economy and healthcare.

Dr. Gruca is an Associate Professor at St. Xavier University in Chicago within the School of Nursing where she has taught for more then twenty-five years. In addition to her work with the graduate students at St. Xavier's, she is a Gerontological Nurse Practioner and a Parish Nurse at the Center for Life and Learning at the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago.

For relaxation, she enjoys travel, reading and is an avid Perennial Plant Gardener. " I guess I like to see things grow- my plants AND my students" she added. PLOWS has certainly done a lot of growing in the years Dr.Gruca has been with us.

The staff has almost doubled in the last twenty years with new programs and services being added all the time. We're sure to keep developing new sprouts under the leadership of Dr. Gruca. PLOWS is grateful that she is willing to share her time and talents with us.

Do you own a building and want to Rent or Sell your Apartment or Home? Call Linda and she explain how you can advertise your property with a picture. Call Linda 312-624-8996.

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VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 35 Number 21

May 19, 2009

Two St. Rita volleyball players try on their new jerseys after signing letters of intent with St. Ambrose University. From left: St. Rita Coach Jill Nagel, Andrew Kats '09 (St. Barnabas), John Bisiules '09 (St. Albert the Great), and St. Ambrose Coach Bill Gleeson.

Two seniors from St. Rita sign letters of intent to St. Ambrose

Rita Volleyball Players Sign with St. Ambrose Two members of the volleyball team at St. Rita of Cascia High School recently signed letters of intent to attend and play for St. Ambrose University in Davenport , Iowa . John Bisiules (St. Albert the Great) and Andrew Kats (St. Barnabas) have played volleyball together at St. Rita for four years, and now look forward to being roommates at St. Ambrose in the fall.

A signing ceremony was held on April 28, and John, who stands 6'4" and plays right side hitter, and Andrew, who stands 6'3" and plays middle hitter, were congratulated by President Rev. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A., Principal Sally Deenihan, and Athletic Director Bob Conlon. St. Rita Coach Jill Nagel expressed what a privilege it was to coach John and Andrew, and St. Ambrose Coach Bill Gleeson thanked her for sending him two skilled players.

The students were only able to celebrate briefly with their families, as they were about to hit the court for a game. The Mustangs were ranked 40th in the nation in an ESPN Preseason poll, and look forward to a good showing in the upcoming Sectionals. Congratulations to John and Andrew, and best of luck through the rest of this season and in your futures at St. Ambrose.

Stepping into Style

The St. Fabian Women's club invites you to its 5th Annual Fashion Show, Stepping into Style, with fashions from Cleo's, on Sunday, May 31, 2009.

Doors open at 1:30 PM. The Fashion Show will be held at Nickobee's Banquets, 10555 Southwest Highway, Worth. Admission is a donation of $30.

Tickets may be obtained by calling Dee at (773) 586-2526 or Joan at (708) 496-8085, Regretfully, no tickets will be available at the door.

Evergreen Park MiniBus available for community

One of the outstanding services provided by the Office of Citizens' Services for senior and disabled adults of Evergreen Park is its mini-bus transportation. The OCS mini-bus operates Tuesday through Friday (9:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.) transporting clients to medical appointments within a five-mile radius and business appointments to village merchants. Medical appointments take priority.

The mini-bus is equipped to handle two wheelchairs. Service includes Evergreen Park banks, barber and beauty shops, library, OCS activities at community center, plaza, post office and Village Hall; also Tuesday afternoon shopping at Aldi's and Thursday morning transportation to E. P. Farmers' Market (June 4 – October 29). Phone OCS (422-8776) to make a bus appointment, giving at least a 24-hour notice and up to two weeks in advance of scheduled appointment.

Photo attached and pictured left to right: Anne Koronkiewicz, Mr. William J. Sanderson, and Patricia Murphy.

Evergreen Park High School valedictorian and salutatorian attends recognition breakfast

Mr. William J. Sanderson, principal of Evergreen Park Community High School in Evergreen Park, Illinois, accompanied the 2009 valedictorian Anne Koronkiewicz and the salutatorian Patricia Murphy and their parents to the Illinois Principal's Association Student Recognition Breakfast on May 1 at the Odyssey Country Club in Tinley Park, Illinois. This event recognizes the best and the brightest students in the south suburbs.

Anne Koronkiewicz earned a cumulative grade point average of 4.622 and scored a 30 on the ACT. Anne will attend DePaul University this fall where she will major in Biology. Anne has been a member of Mathletes, Operation Snowball, Leadership Team, National Honor Society, Science Club, Language Club, Freshman Mentor Program, Student Government, and Scholastic Bowl. Anne was a member of the softball team and track team for two years, and was a varsity swimmer all four years where she earned Rookie of the Year and All-Conference awards.

Patricia Murphy earned a cumulative grade point average of 4.510 and scored a 32 on the ACT. She is headed to Norte Dame University where she will major in engineering. Patty has been a member of the "Herd" school spirit group, Peer Tutor, National Honor Society, Freshman Mentor Program, and Student Government. Athletically, Patty was a member of the cross country team for one year, and played both basketball and softball all four years, serving as captain on both teams for one year.

Evergreen Park Farmers' Market re-opens

June 4 is opening day for the 2009 E. P. Farmers' Market. The Market will be open every Thursday (7:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.) through October 29 at Yukich Field, 90th & Kedzie.

The Evergreen Park Library will be hosting a Strawberry Fest June 18 (10:00 A.M. – Noon), providing strawberry treats and recipes. South Division Credit Union will sponsor FREE SHREDDING June 25 to enable residents to dispose of personal documents in a safe manner. OCS Mini-Bus available to transport residents to the Farmers' Market. Phone 422-8776 for an appointment.

Stroger to address Chicagoland Annuity Club

Cook County Board President, Todd Stroger, will speak to the Chicagoland Annuity Club, Wednesday, May 20 at 9 a.m. at the Oak View Center Board Room, 4625 W. 110th Street , Oak Lawn

Mike Albano, coordinator, announced that President Stroger will share his expertise on the workings of his office.

President Stroger was elected President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners in November of 2006 for a four year term. Previously he was elected to five terms as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives.

In 2001 he was appointed by Mayor Daley to serve as Alderman of the 8th Ward. He attended St. Ignatius High School and received his bachelor's degree from Xavier University in New Orleans .

Moraine Valley sets dates for adult literacy, English language tutor training

Volunteers for Moraine Valley Community College 's Literacy Program are currently being recruited to tutor adults who read, write, or compute math below the ninth-grade level or who need additional help in learning English. Tutors are especially needed in the Blue Island area where many students are on waiting lists for help.

The next training session will be Tuesdays, June 2 and 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy. , Palos Hills . Attendance is mandatory on both days.

Tutors commit to teaching basic reading, math, computer, or English skills to an assigned student for two hours each week for one year. Regular meeting days and times are decided by the tutor and the student. The Literacy Program offers tutoring at local libraries, churches, community centers, and on the college campus, so tutors can choose a location close to their work or home.

Volunteers should be high school graduates over the age of 18. Teaching experience is not required because volunteers will receive the 12 hours of mandatory training. Those who are interested in being a tutor but cannot attend daytime training sessions are asked to call Megan Hughes, coordinator of the Literacy Program, to be placed on a list for evening training.

To volunteer or for more information about Moraine Valley 's Literacy Program, call Hughes, at (708) 974-5331.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Governor Quinn announces more than $21 million for Parks and Open Space

At the Illinois Association of Park Districts Legislative Conference in Springfield on May 6, 2009, Governor Quinn announced that $21.1 million in grants for 59 park development and land acquisition projects throughout Illinois .

"These kinds of projects help strengthen the fabric of local communities throughout Illinois ," said Governor Quinn. "We are investing in parks, playgrounds, picnic tables and fishing piers to help get our children outdoors and reduce nature deficit disorder."

Fifty-nine projects are being funded statewide through the 2009 Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) program facilitated through Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Of those, 10 will result in the purchase of new land and 49 will focus on the outdoor recreation development including $400,000.00 to the Alsip Park District for improvements to Sears Park including new parking lots, new climbing playground, a multi-use lighted path with fitness stations, multi-use playfield, pavilion with overlook and reconstruction of pond edge incorporating prairie plantings.

"These grants are vital to the goal of leaving no child inside and helping to fashion future stewards of our natural resources," said IDNR Director Marc Miller.

The $21.2 million awarded throughout the state this year combined with the grantee's minimum 50 percent share will result in more that $42.4 million of local acquisition and development projects to enhance the quality of life in Illinois .

The Alsip Park District Board of Commissioners and Staff are extremely appreciative for Governor Quinn's commitment to natural resources and the environment.

Publisher's Pen

by Annette Dixon

This is the time for me to write a Publisher's Pen. In today's enocomy this is not the time to award millions of dollars for parks and open spaces. I wonder how the small business owners feel about this, especially in Alsip.

The article at the left regarding Governor Quinn's $21 million for parks and open spaces really infuriated me.

Illinois has lost more manufacturing jobs, newspapers industries, car dealerships, mining, landfills, etc. All the businesses are within the most populated cities in the state.

What is the state of Illinois doing to increase jobs for the unemployed? We have received stimulus packages for the wealthy, which did nothing to increase jobs, not even to maintain jobs. Look at your local banks, do you see more employees. Example, Washington Mutual and Chase employees are combined, since May. Did all of the WAMU employees remain with their company, which is now Chase? I know of more than 15 who are now former employees of WAMU. This is only one example.

What about all the small business owners who had to lay off their employees inorder to stay afloat, or the small businesses that had to close their doors. Were they able to receive a grant, tax credit or stimulus from the Federal Government or State of Illinois? Of course not. And why not?

Millions of people are employed by small business owners and yet even in my small business I had a lay off. I would like to hear from you regarding your job layoff and what alternative you took to be rehired.

Did you change job career? Are you still unemployed? Did you settle for less money or benefits? I am conducting a study, regarding individuals who are still hampered by the closings of small businesses.

My anger got the best of me. Now I know why Governor Quinn could give $21 Millions dollars to parks for all the children and families. There are more out of work people in our state who need a place to go and the children will need supervision during the summer. I just hope the open spaces will not be used for tent cities.

I will send the compiled information to Governor Quinn and seek out answers as to how the state will be able to help strengthen the vitality of small businesses in this state.

Call me at 312-624-8996 or send me an email at vvnew@sbcglobal.net . If you wish to mail a letter, mail it to Annette Dixon, 1160 S. Michigan Ave. #1306, Chicago, IL 60605.

Evergreen Park students attend American Legion

AUXILIARY'S ILLINI GIRLS STATE ORIENTATION

On Saturday, May 23, 2009 , the American Legion Auxiliary's District Illini Girls State Chairman, Carollee Junge, will hold an orientation for two Evergreen Park High School students selected to attend Illini Girls State, June 14-20, 2009 at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL . Students are Jillian Pastick and Maryl Pinotti. Illini

Girls State is a practical application of Americanism and good citizenship, and it is an intense learning experience that simulates Illinois governmental procedure for girls who have completed their junior year in high school.

Girls learn how a two-party system works, elect officials, introduce and pass bills, and hold mock court trials. Over 500 girls from communities throughout the State of Illinois have been selected to participate.

Garden Center Services (for Persons with Disabilities)

"WALK N' ROLL-A-THON" "OUR STEPS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD"

The 5th Annual Garden Center Services' Walk N' Roll-A-Thon will be held on Saturday, June 6th and will be held at the Garden Center Main Building, 8333 S. Austin Avenue, Burbank . Our theme will be: "Our Steps Can Change the World".

(This year's "Walk-A-Thon" has officially changed its name to the "Walk N' Roll-A-Thon", as we are supporting persons walking and wheeling. This event brings over 200 friends, families, and agency supporters together to help raise funds that support the daily programming for people with developmental disabilities at Garden Center Services.

On Saturday, June 6th, please arrive between 10:00-10:30am to check-in as our event will begin promptly at 10:45am. In addition to walking, participants will enjoy refreshments,entertainment, and music provided by a disc jockey.

If you have any questions or would like to contribute to or help sponsor a portion of this event, please contact Debbie at 708-398-6504. Thank you, and remember... *"OUR STEPS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD*

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Madonna' is among 6 Vanderpoel works moving to Smith Village

"Madonna" has found a new home at Smith Village, which has been "home" to many senior Beverly/Morgan Park residents since it opened its doors in 1924.

This particular Madonna is a colorful batik by the late local artist Ethel Wirtshafter, who taught at the John H. Vanderpoel Art Assn. museum for more than 50 years. Until now, due to lack of wall space, it and hundreds of other treasured works by local artists have been in storage.

And it is among several works by a select group of well-known area artists to take up residence at Smith Village.

About 200 works share gallery space in the museum at Ridge Park field house, while several hundred others in the collection have languished in storage. Recently, Vanderpoel curators Sid and Grace Hamper decided to move as many as possible of the stored works to where people could see and enjoy them.

When Smith Senior Living trustees Thomas E. Chomicz, a former board president, and Robert A. Berghoff, the current president, learned of the Hampers' quest they offered wall space for part of the collection at Smith Village.

"It's a natural fit," says Chomicz. "The Vanderpoel and our community are vital parts in the history of this area. It was founded in 1913 and we opened our doors in 1924."

Last year, the continuing care retirement community completed a three-year program of new construction and currently it is renovating its skilled nursing wing—which shares the campus spacious one- and two-bedroom independent living apartments and assisted living, Alzheimer's and memory support residences.

For more information about how Smith Village helps seniors thrive during their retirement, please call 773-474-7300 or visit www.SmithVillage.org.

MetroSouth Medical Center June-July 2009 Community Events

Baseball season is in full swing, and summer is a good time to make sure your bases are covered when it comes to your health. In June and July, MetroSouth Medical Center (formerly St. Francis Hospital) offers a variety of opportunities, from FREE screenings to fundraisers, to foster healthier communities.

With Father's Day in June, MetroSouth also begins a series of free screenings for those important men in your life. For more information, please call (708) 597-2000 or visit www.MetroSouthMedicalCenter.com.

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

Senior Healthy Living / Free Health Screenings

Friday, June 5, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Heritage I, 11949 S. Ridgeway, Alsip, Ill.

Blood pressure screenings and self breast exam demonstrations for the residents of Heritage I place.

Senior Healthy Living / Free Health Screenings

Friday, June 5, 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Heritage II, 3715 W. 123rd Pl., Alsip, Ill.

Blood pressure screenings and self breast exam demonstrations for the residents of Heritage II place.

Orland Township Health Awareness /

Free Health Screenings

Wednesday, June 24, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Orland Township Health Awareness /

Free Health Screenings

Wednesday, June 24, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Wal-Mart, 9256 W. 159th Street,

Orland Hills, Ill.

Blood pressure screenings with MetroSouth Medical Center Home Care and Hospice.

Senior Healthy Living / Free Health Screenings

Friday, July 3, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Heritage I, 11949 S. Ridgeway, Alsip, Ill.

Blood pressure and prostate screenings for the residents at Heritage I place. Men Only.

Senior Healthy Living / Free Health Screenings

Friday, July 3, 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Heritage II, 3715 W. 123rd Place, Alsip, Ill.

Blood pressure and prostate screenings for the residents at Heritage I place. Men Only.

FUNDRAISERS

Relay for Life

Saturday, June 6, 2 p.m.-6 p.m.

Tinley Park High School, 6111 W. 175th Street, Tinley Park, Ill.

MetroSouth Medical Center joins

Pronger-Smith Center in "Relay for Life of Tinley Park," benefitting the American Cancer Society.

MetroSouth Medical Center (formerly St. Francis Hospital & Health Center) is a full-service medical facility located at 12935 S. Gregory St., Blue Island, IL For additional information including a complete list of specialties and upcoming community events, please visit http://www.MetroSouthMedicalCenter.com

World renowned prosthetist to provide care to amputees in Oak Lawn and Matteson

World renowned Certified Prosthetist Kevin Carroll will provide free prosthetic evaluations to local amputees at Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics on Wednesday, May 27 at 10837 S. Cicero Ave , Oak Lawn , IL 60453 and on Thursday, May 28 at 4525 W. Lincoln Highway, Matteson , IL 60443 .

An American Board Certified prosthetist with nearly 30 years experience as a practicing clinician, visionary researcher, and skilled educator, Carroll travels daily treating the most challenging amputations nationwide and has appeared internationally on news broadcasts such as Dateline, 20/20, CBS Early Show, NBC Nightly News, ABC's Good Morning America, and the Discovery Channel.

He was featured in an article in Time magazine's March 31, 2008 issue called "Innovators: Building a Better Athlete" for his pioneering prosthetic solutions for amputee athletes. He spent two weeks in Beijing working with the world's fastest, most athletic amputees at the Paralympic Games in September, 2008.

Known most recently for his success developing the first prosthetic tail fluke for an amputee dolphin. A four-year-old Atlantic bottlenose dolphin, Winter was stranded and caught in a crab trap near Cape Canaveral in December, 2005, when she was just 18-months-old. Her tail fluke eventually came off, as it was severely damaged by the trap's rope entanglement. Having survived, she then adapted to a less efficient and damaging side-to-side swimming style, as there was no tail fluke to give her thrust. Thanks to Carroll's ingenuity, Winter became the first dolphin to have her entire tail fluke replaced with a prosthetic device.

Chicagoland residents interested in scheduling an evaluation with Carroll should call 708-371-9999 (Oak Lawn) or 708-755-2200 (Matteson). For more information on Hanger, visit www.hanger.com.

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Thank you volunteer tax counselors

A heartfelt "Thank you!" from the Office of Citizens' Services to the Volunteer Income Tax Counselors.

The following dedicated Volunteers donated their time and expertise assisting Evergreen Park residents in filing their tax returns, as well as filing Illinois Circuit Breaker forms and Cook County Senior Freeze Property Tax applications:

Gilbert Drucker 5 years
Tony Gallo 7 years
Earl Hanisch 21 years
Richard Lynch 15 years
Harry O'Sullivan 13 years
Frank Ross 2 years.

Old St. Patrick's Church 25th annual World's Largest Block Party

~ Enjoy Two Nights of Music and Tons of Fun! ~

Join us for the party of the year as we celebrate reaching the 25th anniversary of the World's Largest Block Party, a summer tradition in Chicago. The Block Party was Old St. Pat's first fundraising event and continues to be the place to hear great music, meet new people and have tons of fun while partying with a purpose. Funds from the Block Party support numerous outreach programs on the Old St. Pat's campus. Tickets are $35 in advance or $40 at the gate, if the event is not sold-out. There is also a two-night pass available for $65. A ticket includes five beverages with a choice of beer, wine, soda or bottled water. For more details, www.worldslargestblockparty.com.

When: Friday, July 10 and Saturday, July 11 from 5:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Over 18,000 people will meet, mingle and dance while enjoying two stages of live music, two nights filled with fun, and two blocks of great food at low prices. The 2009 headliner bands will be announced on WXRT.

Where: The entry gate is located at Madison and Des Plaines in Chicago 's West Loop .

Why: Proceeds support the church and the Center for Social Concerns on the Old St. Pat's campus, which houses the following outreach programs: The Cara Program; Horizons for Youth; Career Transitions Center of Chicago; and Global Alliance for Africa .

Court Theatre presents Piano Lesson until June 7

by Annette Dixon

August Wilson's play is from the 30's era which at times was hilarious but the use of the N word was overbearing. Ron OJ Parson, Resident Artist is an expert when it comes to August Wilson's plays.

Surely he would not agree with me but the N word was spoken in way too many times even in one sentence.

I am familiar with the work of the following actors Alexis J. Rogers, (Grace), Allen D. Edge (Avery), Tyla Abercrumbie (Berneice). They did a superb job identifying with their characters. Of course these actors didn't use the N word that I know of!

For the actors, who I just met tonight played their role extremely well. My favorite was Brian Weddenton (Lymon) who carried the play along with Ronald L. Conner (Boy Willie), Alfred H. Wilson (Wining Boy) and A.C. Smith (Doaker).

The story line was great without giving it away the piano was a sight unseen. It was a good 30's dialog between family members and kept me interested in the storyline.

It's not for me to wonder how they all arrived in Pittsburg but to remember the playwright was born and raised in Pittsburg.

Mr. Wilson received a Pulitzer for Fences, along with a Tony award. He receive a Pulitzer for Piano Lesson in 1990 and Great Britain's Olivier Award for Jitney; as well as eight New York Drama Critics Circle Awards.

His writing style for stage plays are earthy and do not require deep thinking just pure enjoyment. There will be another play by playwright August Wilson coming in the fall September 17 until October 18, 2009, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom.

Pappas salutes Slovak Folk Ensemble from Zobar Slovakia

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas (center) enjoys the dance presentation from the Slovak Folk Ensemble at a reception showcasing the Slovak Folk Ensemble from Zobar Slovakia in her downtown Chicago office.

"The academic folk ensemble Zobar at the Slovak Agriculture University in Nitra was founded in 1956 and is one of the oldest ensembles in the Slovak Republic . It comprises folk music, band, chorus and dance," said Treasurer Pappas. John Vacval president of the Slovak World Congress Abroad, and Alojz Jurcik were presented awards of excellence by the Treasurer for their contributions to the Slovak American community.

Shown are (l. to r.) Smith Village Executive Director Kevin McGee with Koda Bistro owners Janice and Pat Daley. (Photo Credit: Waldemar Reichert)

Smith Senior Living Honors Smith Village Residents andTheir Families with Inaugural Founders' Day CelebrationSmith Village, 2340 W. 113th Place in Chicago's Morgan Park/Beverlyneighborhood, showed its powerful legacy of service to seniors by starting anew Founders' Day tradition on May 3, 2009. The date marked the 85thanniversary of the opening of Smith's first community, Oakhaven Old People's Home, on May 1, 1924. Residents and their families enjoyed acocktail

AMERICAN LEGION POPPY DAYS, MAY 21, 22, & 23, 2009

Evergreen Park American Legion Post 854 and Auxiliary members will be on street corners and other select locations to distribute poppies during Poppy Days May 21, 22, and 23, 2009. The American Legion and Auxiliary adopted a replica of the poppy as their Memorial Flower after poppies bloomed in abundance amidst complete devastation on the battlefields of France in 1919, where so many men had fallen in battle.

For more than 85 years, the poppy has been used to remind America that millions have sacrificed their lives and health to keep our nation strong and free. Today, this volunteer work pays tribute to all who have died in service, and assists Veterans and Active Service men and women during these difficult times.

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Letters to the Editor

The Village of Evergreen Park commends the Police Association

The Village Pantry is grateful for the recent contribution of $500 from the Evergreen Park Police Association.

Through combined efforts we can continue to help Evergreen Park residents. On behalf of the Evergreen Park families and individuals who will benefit from this generous donation, thank you!

Through the Greater Chicago Food Depository the Village Pantry is able to purchase $16 worth of food for each dollar donated. Donations are also used to purchase additional needed items from local merchants.

Jolene Churak, President
VILLAGE PANTRY COALITION

Taxing sugary drinks to fund dental care makes sense

Without finding a sensible solution to funding dental programs, millions of Illinois families and children are at risk of suffering from both short-term and long-term health problems, including heart disease, stroke, pre-term childbirth and oral cancer.

As a dentist, I want to meet the dental care needs of every patient that walks through my doors, whether they're backed by a major medical insurance provider, government-insured program or paying out of pocket. But as more people lose jobs so goes their medical coverage, leaving even more families without a viable option to pay for much needed medical assistance.

This is why I fully support legislation backed by the Bridge to Healthy Smiles Coalition to impose a five percent sales tax on soda pop and other high sugar drinks to fund dental care. Reports show that prolonged exposure to "liquid sugar" can lead to significant enamel loss and the erosive potential of colas is 10 times that of fruit juices in just the first three minutes of drinking.

Because Illinois has among the lowest funding rates in the nation for government-funded dental care, we are facing an oral-health-care crisis where dental clinics have closed and services have sharply been reduced, but the need for care is dramatically increasing as the economy worsens. Illinois currently has just one clinic per 8,400 children who rely on government insurance.

Modeled after a proposal introduced in New York , such a tax would generate millions of dollars in funding to increase dental reimbursement rates for oral health care. No one likes tax increases, but if this will help save a child's beautiful smile and prevent long term health risks, then it's worth every penny.

Mary J Hayes DDS
Pediatric Dental Health Associates, Ltd. Chicago, Illinois Spokesperson for Illinois State Dental Society

Stickney Township to host Storyteller in honor of Memorial Day

Camille Born, of Could be Worse Stories, will be performing her show "A Story of Love and War" on Friday, May 22, 2009 at the Louis S. Viverito Senior Center in Burbank.

In honor of Memorial Day, she tells the story of Edwin Gorak and the Thunderbirds. The story is based on the written romance between a soldier and his girl. Ed Gorak snuck a camera into the front lines, and Lillian Lis sent him the film and chemicals he needed to develop the negatives in his helmet during nights in his slit trench. Their love grew during their long correspondence. Beginning in 1941, the story takes you from Chicago to US Army training camps, through the battles on Sicily, in Italy, France and Germany – including the liberation of the Dachau Concentration Camp. The story ends with a new beginning when Ed returns home in 1945. It is told against a projection of Ed's original photographs, many of which have never been published, and will make you feel you have been on the front lines.

Join us on Friday, May 22, 2009 at 10a.m. to hear Ed's story come alive! Lunch will be served at 11:30a.m. Advanced registration is required. Please call the Louis S. Viverito Senior Center at (708) 636-8850.

Dear Editor:

I just read Jason Alderman's article about Senior Prom in your May 5th edition. I was appalled at the extravegance cited.

Of course, he rents a tux. Of course she wants a new dress. Or course there's the flowers, price of the tickets and dinner afterwards.

But, $700 for a dress?! A limo?! Renting hotel suites?! Spare me.

In the "olden days" we knew our parents' econo-mic status. We borrowed Dad's car and double dated to the prom. We may not have gotten home till the wee hours but we went home after the prom, not to a hotel! And the next day, we went to the Dunes. The total cost of the car: nothing , No hotel necessary, Cost of picnic: pack a lunch and gas.

In my son's days, he's 37 now, borrowed my friend's car. Their after prom, dinner was at a local restaurant, there are so many great ones. They had a curfew. No one rented limos or hotel rooms. And neither his generation nor mine felt deprived. It was still a memory to last a lifetime. I'm 62 and I remember! Maybe today's young people need to be taught an economic lesson.

Maybe today's parents need to learn to make boundaries and say "no" to their teenagers.

Maybe they need to be taught to stay sober enough to drive and not need a limo.

Maybe parents ought to stop feeding them such an opulent and materealistic attitude. Maybe teens need to come home to go to bed.

Wake-up America. Times are tough. Say "NO" to your children and teach them some valuable lessons and stop feeling so guilty.

And if you've already done that, and if your teens secretly value your boundaries and if those young people can enjoy a special night without booze, drugs, and extravegance, they just might have a blast anyway and remember it for the rest of their lives.

signed/ Mary Beth Prosapio
Oak Lawn, Illinois

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Memorial Day is for Patriots

By David K. Rehbein

In some circles, patriotism has become a synonym for arrogant or jingoistic. Some people even use it as a political weapon; "Don't question my patriotism," they say. Yet, this Memorial Day, and every other day for that matter, we should remember that those who died for this country are the true patriots.

Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes called Memorial Day, "our most respected holiday," and urged that "we not ponder with sad thoughts the passing of our heroes but rather ponder their legacy – the life they made possible for us by their commitment and pain."

President Lincoln put their sacrifice into perspective at the battlefield in Gettysburg when he said, "The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here."

After the terrorists struck us on 9/11, America was changed. Our all volunteer force responded. People with comfortable jobs left their towns and deployed with their Reserve and Guard units. Some even joined the active-duty forces. The existing military responded in its typical heroic fashion, overthrowing a tyrannical regime in Afghanistan and battling ruthless insurgents in Iraq. Thousands gave their lives.

The call to freedom came and they answered. Just as their predecessors in the two world wars, Korea, Vietnam, Beirut, Grenada, and the Persian Gulf, the War on Terrorism is being won by ordinary Americans making extraordinary sacrifices.

One such man was Marine Cpl. Travis Braddack-Nail of Portland, Ore. He played the drums, loved punk rock and drove his mother crazy with his tattoos. Although he hoped to attend college, he extended his stay in Iraq to help his platoon. "The platoon wasn't surprised by his decision. He would always step in and take his spot," a Marine buddy recalled.

Travis was killed two months later in an explosion during a mine-clearing operation near Karbala. We owe Travis, and the men and women like him, our unending respect and gratitude. The Preamble to The American Legion's Constitution states in part, "to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars." On Memorial Day, we call on all Americans to do this.

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Acorn Public Library Announces program about World War II Mission

Oak Forest, IL – The Acorn Public Library will host an afternoon program about a World War II air mission on Thursday May 28, 2009 at 7 PM. This program, entitled The Kassel Mission, will be presented by local speaker Steven Howard. Mr. Howard is a member of the Kassel Mission Historical Society, and he also has a personal connection to this mission. His Stepfather was a waist gunner on one of the U.S. bombers that was shot down. He spent the next six months in a German prisoner-of-war camp.

On September 27, 1944, the 445th Bomb Group (Jimmy Stewart's original bomb group) flew a mission to Kassel, Germany. The group flew off course due to a navigational error, and it ended up in the most concentrated air battle in history. Within a few minutes, 54 planes had gone down within a 15-mile radius. Only three planes from the 445th made it back to base. Covered-up at the time, this "bomber massacre" belongs in the history books next to other American military disasters, such as Custer's Last Stand, the Charge of the Light Brigade and Pearl Harbor. The Kassel Mission Historical Society erected a memorial in Germany to honor the men from both Germany and the United States who died that day.

Acorn Public Library is located at 15624 S. Central Avenue in Oak Forest. Interested individuals are encouraged to call (708) 687-3700 to register their attendance. This program is offered free to the public.

City of Oak Forest hires 12 community service officers

The City of Oak Forest has hired 12 part-time community service officers (CSO) to assist the Police Department with daily tasks that do not require the training of sworn police officers. The CSOs have completed their training and will report for duty next week.

"The CSOs are going to be a tremendous asset to our department and city," said Interim Police Chief David DeMarco.

"They'll be working on non-criminal and service-related calls so our police officers will be able to concentrate their efforts on more pressing matters."

Among their assignments, CSOs will collect money and control traffic at Metra parking lots; conduct foot patrols during the summer; assist in prisoner processing and checks; report code violations; fill in for crossing guards as needed; issue parking tickets; conduct premise checks of businesses after hours; deliver documents to the Markham Courthouse; and assist at special events.

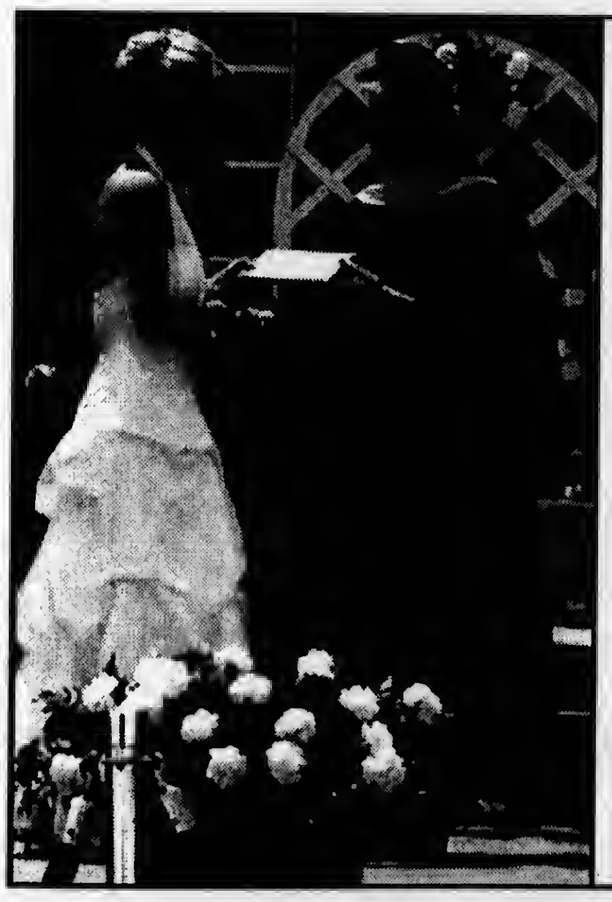
The CSOs will not have the authority to carry a weapon or have powers of arrest.

Residents will be able to identify the CSOs by their tan pants and blue shirts, which have "CSO" on one side and " Oak Forest " on the other side.

Next Moraine Valley Veterans' Session to focus on business ownership

Moraine Valley Community College has offered several Veterans' Information Sessions to help veterans prepare for a smooth transition from military life to its classrooms. The next free session will focus on starting a business and becoming an entrepreneur. It will be on Friday, June 12, from 9 to 11:30 a.m., in the Fogelson Theater, Building T, on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. This session is open to anyone and is co-sponsored by the Illinois Department of Employment Security. Refreshments will be served.

Participants will learn about writing a business plan, small business loans, how small businesses survive tough economic times, and the entrepreneur series offered by Moraine Valley. Admissions and financial aid information also will be available. Once they are enrolled at Moraine Valley, veterans can find additional support from the Combat to College student club. The club's mission is to inform veterans about current educational benefits, provide a strong network to achieve academic and career goals, and develop lifelong friendships. To reserve a spot at the next Veterans' Information Session, call Deb Wills, Admissions recruiter, at (708) 974-5759 or e-mail her at willsd6@morainevalley.edu.



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Square Dance Plus Lessons/ Workshop

Swing'n Sugar Squares Square Dance Club of Evergreen Park offers Plus Lessons/Workshop square dance lessons at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday June 4 through August 27, except July 2, at Evergreen Park Community Center, 3450 W. 97th St., Evergreen Park. Dance hall is air conditioned.

The workshops are for those who have completed mainstream lessons and for those who want to brush up on their skills, while having enjoyable evenings. The classes are taught by Rick Allison, one of the most outstanding Callers in the Chicago area. Each Work Shop admission is $5.00 per person.

Lessons for new dancers begin September 22.

Swing'n Sugar Squares Square Dance Club is sponsored by Evergreen Park Recreation Department. Questions? Please call (773) 238-5496 or (708) 458-1880 or squaredancechicago.com

Cirque Du Soleil and MSG Entertainment announces new touring show

At The Chicago Theatre - Starting November 19, 2009

Exclusive pre-sale tickets available starting April 29

Cirque du Soleil and MSG Entertainment are proud to announce a brand new theatrical touring show and the creative team. The show is set to open first at The Chicago Theatre for a limited engagement from November 19, 2009 through January 3, 2010 . Following Chicago , the show will premiere in New York in 2010 and then tour additional cities.

Directed by David Shiner, this new production will present its own contemporary take on vaudeville. The show will feature short, fast-paced performances of comic variety fused with innovative choreography and dance styles.

Shiner is the writer and director of the Cirque du Soleil big top touring show KOOZA, which performed in Chicago in 2008 and is currently in New York . He also created the two-man show "Fool Moon" with Bill Irwin, which ran on Broadway in the 1990s and won a special Tony Award for Live Theatrical Presentation in 1999, a Drama Desk Award for Unique Theatrical Experience and an Outer Critics Circle Special Achievement Award.

"MSG Entertainment is excited to partner with Cirque du Soleil once again," said Jonathan Hochwald, executive vice president productions, MSGE. "Our latest production will seek to capture the spirit of vaudeville and variety entertainments, mash it up with contemporary music and technology, and introduce a brand new art form—a reinvention of the live experience as only Cirque du Soleil could Chicago Theatre Insiders. Visit cirquedusoleil.com or thechicagotheatre.com to join. Cirque du Soleil celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2009.

Pictured from the left is William Helm, Ed McElroy and President Todd Stroger.

Ed McElroy, host of "The Ed McElroy Show"

Recently interviewed was Todd Stroger, President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and William Helm, Assistant Director of the Cook County Forest Preserves. The show will air on Tuesday, May 26 and Tuesday, June 2 on Comcast Channel 19 at 8 p.m.

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Mark's Gospel

Will Return to The Mercury Theater in June Due to Popular Demand

Mark's Gospel, the hit Chicago premiere production by the Fellowship for the Performing Arts at The Mercury Theater, 3745 N. Southport Avenue, will return to the theater for an encore performance from June 5 through 28, 2009. The critically acclaimed production starring Max McLean was initially a strictly limited engagement through May 17.

Fresh from his tour de force performance in The Screwtape Letters as Screwtape, Max McLean brings an exuberant theatricality and persuasive interpretation to a more heavenly venture - the story of Jesus.

Mark's Gospel, believed to be the first eye witness story of Jesus. "More than any other Gospel, Mark lends itself to theatre," says Jeffrey Fiske.

Mark's Gospel is directed by Jeffrey Fiske who also directed The Screwtape Letters. Also from the Screwtape design team are costumes by Michael Bevins and sound design by Bart Fasbender. Scenic design is by Nick Rastenis and lighting by Jesse Klug. Both are local Chicago designers. Projection design is by Sage Marie Carter from New York. For more information, visit www.MarkOnStage.com.

The performance schedule for Mark's Gospel is Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. There is a performance on Thursday, June 18 at 8 p.m. and there is no show on June 21 at 3 p.m. Tickets range in price from $29.00 - $48.50. Tickets are $20 for students with proof of a valid ID at the box office at the time of purchase. Tickets are available by calling The Mercury Theater Box Office at 773.325.1700, TicketMaster at 312.902.1500, or visiting www.ticketmaster.com. Discounted tickets for groups are also available by calling 773.477.7666.

Three couples with six points of view and big life decisions in The Crowd You're In With

Life and love are not so simple, as three couples with six different perspectives discover in the Chicago premiere of Rebecca Gilman's The Crowd You're In With at Goodman Theatre. The Crowd You're In With is the final play in the Goodman's "Strong Women, Strong Voices" three-play series of works written and directed by women (which also included the Pulitzer Prize-winning Ruined by Lynn Nottage and Naomi Iizuka's Ghostwritten) in the Owen Bruner Theatre. The Crowd You're In With runs May 23 - June 21, tickets are $10 - $39.

"I am thrilled to welcome back Rebecca to the Goodman with this thought-provoking and funny new play about how we measure success 'in our own backyard'- marriage and property, career and children," said Artistic Director Robert Falls, whose critically acclaimed production of Gilman's Dollhouse premiered at the Goodman in 2005. "We welcome director Wendy Goldberg, whose grace and skill with new plays is fast earning her a reputation as a leader in new play development in the country."

Wendy C. Goldberg is in her fifth season as Artistic Director of the National Playwrights Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, which she has re-established as a leader in the field. The O'Neill celebrated nine world-premiere productions in the 2007/2008 season.

The Crowd You're In With
By Rebecca Gilman
Directed by Wendy C. Goldberg
Jasper.....Coburn Goss
Dan.....Kiff Vanden Heuvel
Melinda.....Janelle Snow
Windsong.....Stephanie Childers
Tom.....Rob Riley
Karen.....Linda Gehringer -Sean Cooper
Set Design...Kevin Depinet
CostumeDesign.Rachel Healy
Lighting Design Josh Epstein
Sound Design Ray Nardelli and Joshua Horvath

Tickets are $10 - 39, and may be purchased online at GoodmanTheatre.org, at the Goodman Theatre Box Office, 170 North Dearborn Street, or by phone at 312.443.3800. Mezztix are half-price mezzanine tickets available at 12 noon at the box office and at 10am online on the day of performance; not available by telephone. When purchasing online, use promo code MEZZTIX. For students, 10Tix are $10 mezzanine tickets available at 12 noon at the box office and at 10am online on the day of performance; not available by telephone. Valid student I.D. must be presented at will call; limit four tickets per student. All tickets are subject to availability and handling fees apply. Discounted group tickets for 10 persons or more are available at 312.443.3820.

Legally Blonde is brought to Chicago

by Marijo Doody

The message is to your own self be true. Broadway in Chicago has brought "Legally Blonde The Musical" from Broadway to Chicago for a month limited run to June 7, 2009 at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Oriental Theatre.

It is a delight, foot stomping, toe tapping and if you had a jump rope you'd use it. On May 4 this year the play was named the winner of three 2009 Touring Broadway Awards.

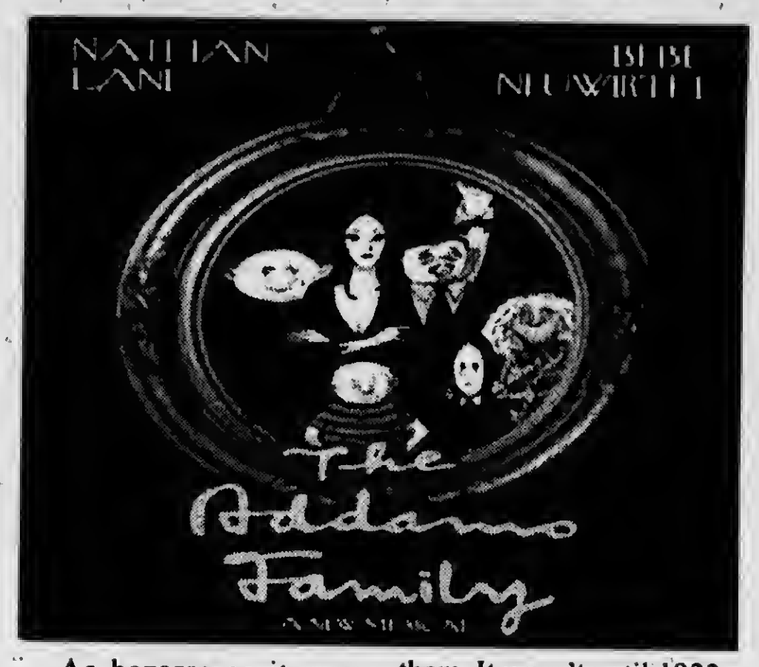
In its first year on Broadway "Legally Blonde The Musical" earned seven Tony Award Nominations, ten Drama Desk Award Nominations and other awards.

The star is Becky Gulsvig, the Elle understudy on Broadway and is terrific. She does not take no for an answer in anything. Blondes are smart and have more fun. She is true to herself in all things.

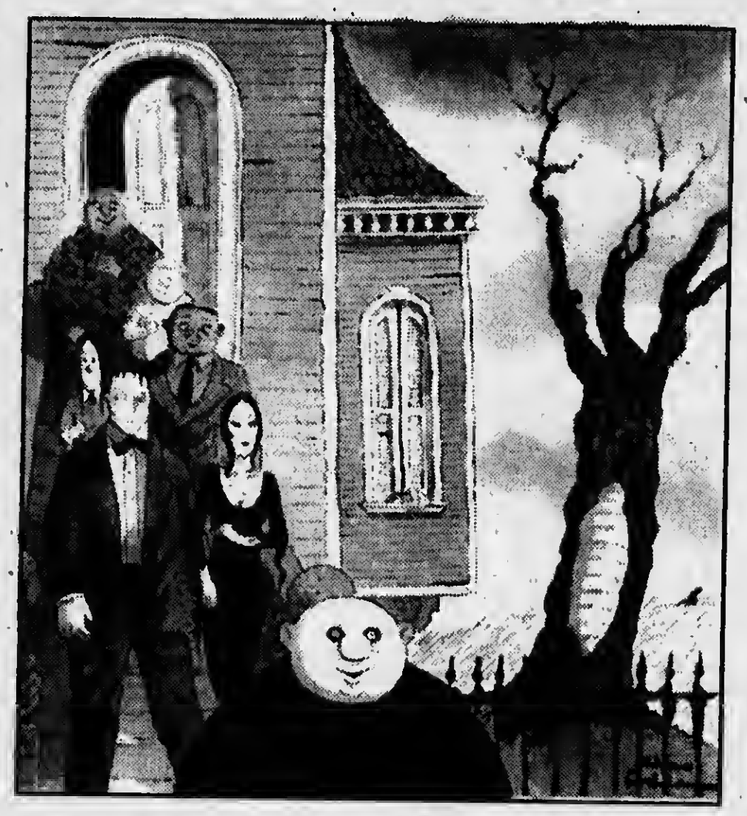
The dancers and singers really get an aerobic workout. I loved the jump rope "Whipped into Shape' dance/song sequence.

As on Broadway, Tony-Award-winner Jerry Mitchell is the director and choreographer. Music and lyrics are by both Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin and the book is by Heather Hach.

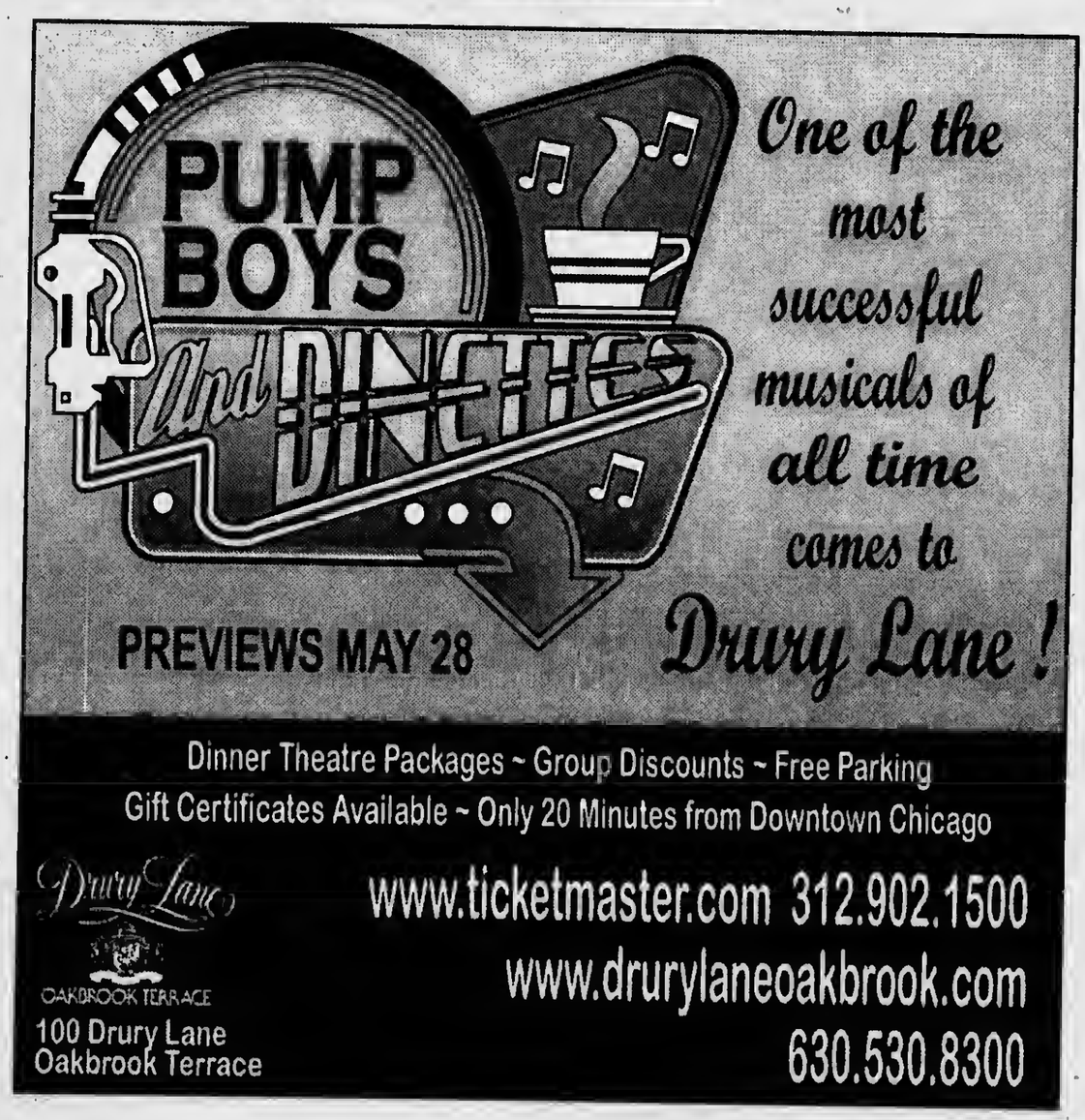
Tickets range from $32-$95 at the BIC box offices (24 W Randolph, 152 W Randolph and 18 W Madison) or at BIC Ticket Line at 312-977-1710.



As bazarre as it may seem Charles Addams, born 1912, was arrested at the age of eight. Later in life he slept in a coffin and drank martinis with eyeballs in them. It wasn't until 1933, that his famous cartoon figures of his family members became a success. Almost everyone has heard of the Addams family, but now more shell see a new musical, titled The Addams Family, a new Musical.



A new musical based on characters created by legendary cartoonist Charles Addams begins November 13, at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Oriental Theatre. Starring Nathan Lane, and Bebe Neuwirth, produced by Stuart Oken, Roy Furman, Michael Leavit and Five Cent Productions. You can see the production until January 10th, 2010, before it goes to Broadway. Tickets are available on American Express until May 28 before the general public sale. Groups can call 312-977-1710.



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Shedd Aquarium Re-Opens Oceanarium With Three Days of Fantasea Fun!

First 100 Guests to Shedd Aquarium Receive FREE General Admission, Every Day May 23-25

The Fantasea begins Saturday, May 23! Shedd Aquarium debuts the completed transformation of the reimagined Oceanarium, its world-class marine mammal pavilion, with a fun-filled celebration all weekend long! Shedd has an ocean of special surprises for guests, beginning with FREE general admission for the first 100 visitors each day of opening weekend!

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies, celebrity guests, stilt-walkers, exciting giveaways, and many more surprises keep the excitement rolling between Saturday, May 23 and Memorial Day on Monday, May 25 to celebrate the long-awaited unveiling of the Oceanarium.

Oceanarium Re-Opening Celebration "Shedd"-ule of events

Saturday, May 23 – First 100 guests to Shedd receive FREE general admission. Hosted by WGN Radio personality Steve Cochran and NBC5 anchor Anna Davlantes, a special ribbon-cutting event on the Aquarium steps will launch the countdown to the grand opening with Shedd president and CEO Ted Beattie accompanied by Chicago Blackhawks Hall of Fame legend Bobby Hull and mascot Tommy Hawk. Guests enjoy special activities and giveaways of limited-edition commemorative pins, tickets, rare animal encounters and more.

Sunday, May 24 – First 100 guests to Shedd receive FREE general admission. WGN Radio's Steve Cochran and NBC5's Anna Davlantes open Shedd's doors with Chicago Sky marquee players, including: Candice Dupree, Jia Perkins, KB Sharp, Kristi Toliver, Sylvia Fowles, Chen Nan, Brooke Wyckoff and Quianna Chaney. Special activities and giveaways from Shedd and the Sky continue.

Memorial Day, Sunday, May 25 – First 100 guests to Shedd receive FREE general admission. WGN Radio's Steve Cochran, NBC5's Anna Davlantes and Shedd Aquarium honor military men and women in a special event before Shedd opens. Members of the U.S. Army offer Shedd visitors opportunities to climb rock walls and shoot hoops outside the Aquarium walls. Special activities and giveaways from Shedd and the U.S. Army as well as animal encounters for guests continue.

There's so much to see and do in Shedd's renovated Oceanarium. Welcome back the beloved beluga whales, Pacific white-sided dolphins, and Alaska sea otters, and say hello to some new faces in the Oceanarium family, including two California sea lions, temperate weather penguins, a new Pacific white-sided dolphin and several Pacific Northwest fishes. Then, take a voyage through a hands-on adventure in the Aquarium's first-ever permanent, kid-friendly exhibit *Polar Play Zone*.

Follow the excitement online, too! Real-time updates, including images and videos of the Fantasea festivities, will be made to the Shedd Aquarium Interactive page at http://interactive.sheddaquarium.org/. Also, connect with the Fantasea fun through Facebook, Twitter (@sheddaquarium), Flickr and YouTube. Visit www.sheddaquarium.org for more information.

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De La Salle to Host 2009 Golf Classic

De La Salle Institute will be hosting the De La Salle Institute Golf Classic on June 24, 2009 at Gleneagles Country Club at 13070 McCarthy Road in Lemont. The cost is $150 and includes 18 holes of golf, cart, breakfast, lunch, dinner and open bar. Tickets for cocktails and dinner only are available at a cost of $50 per person.

All the proceeds from the De La Salle Institute Golf Classic will benefit the scholarship program at De La Salle. Continental breakfast will be served at 7:30 am, followed by a shotgun tee-off at 9 am. A cocktail reception will begin at 2 pm followed by dinner and an awards ceremony. The deadline to RSVP is June 12.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available for the dinner, luncheon, cocktail hour, beverage cart and skills competition, as well as Blue-Gold hole sponsorships.

For more information, please contact Sarah Reczek, De La Salle's Director of Community Relations, at 312-842-7355 ext. 147 or by e-mail at reczeks@dls.org.

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Sat. May 30, 9-1

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Far South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

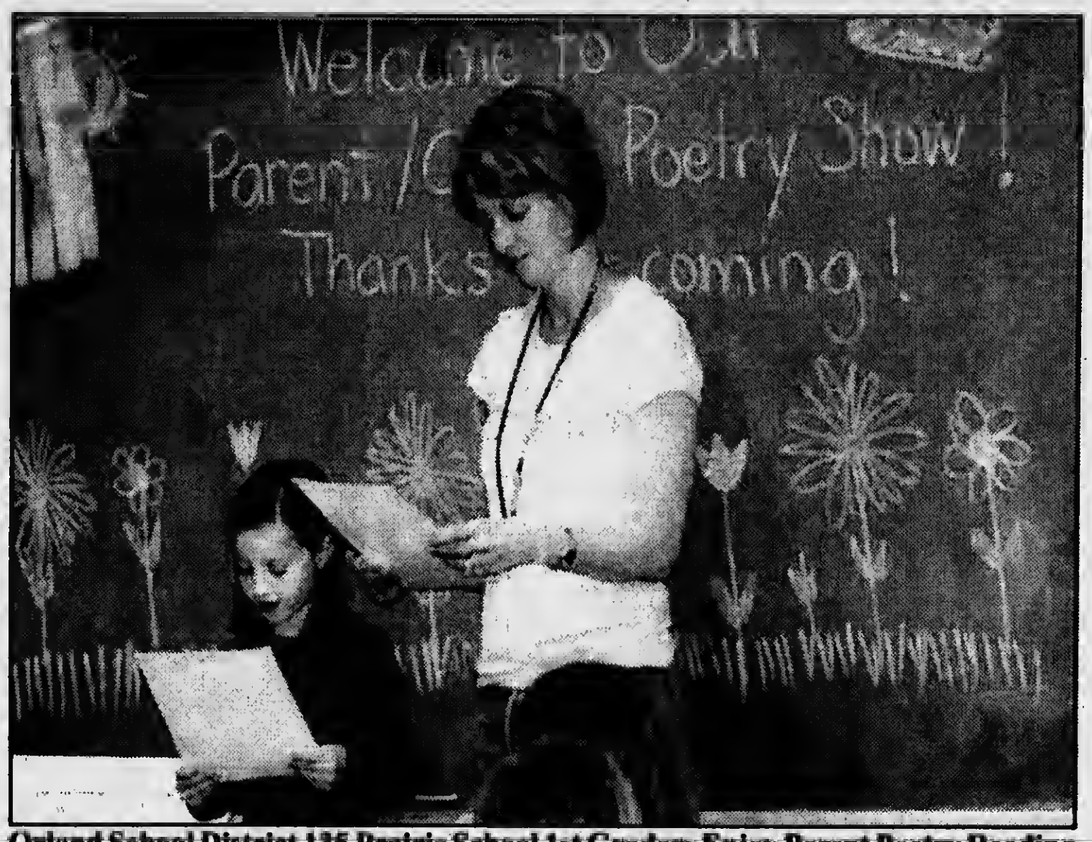
VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 10

May 19, 2009

Orland School District 135 Jerling Jr. High Mathletes Earn 1st Place Pictured: At a recent Southwest Interscholastic Conference Mathlete competition, Jerling Jr. High 7th graders earned 1st place. The team led by teacher Lois Foley, includes: (left to right) Luke Arrigoni, Paige Kordas, Emily Schout, Patrick Torpy and Sanam Patel.



Orland School District 135 Prairie School 1st Graders Enjoy Parent Poetry Reading Pictured: Prairie School student Anne Zeiler and her mother participate in a Parent Poetry reading. First graders and a parent or grandparent worked together on learning a two-voice poem, which is read in two parts. Most poems were selected from the "You Read to Me, I'll Read to You" series by Children's Poet Laureate Mary Ann Hoberman.

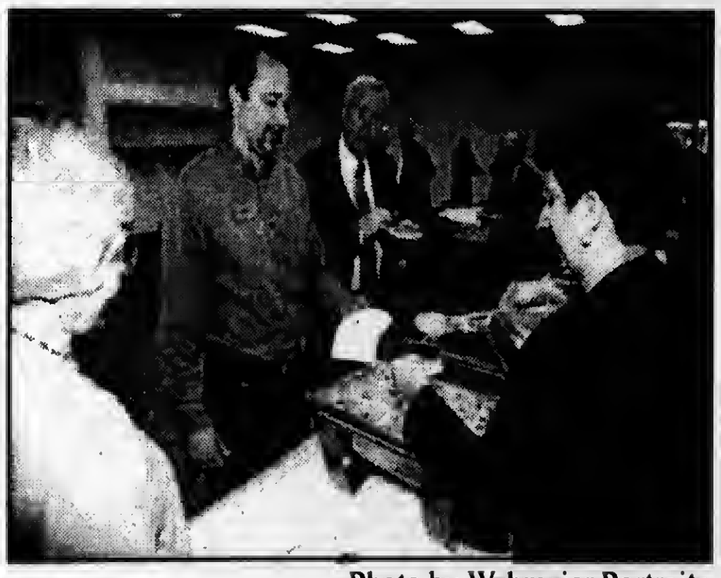


Photo by Wehmeier Portraits

Orland Parks Civic Center holds business after hours event

Civic Center employees serve members of the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce at the beverage table during the Business-After-Hours held at the Orland Park Civic Center with refreshments provided by Papa Joe's restaurant.

Orland Park Chamber of Commerce has membership meetings and also business after hours events. For more information, email info@orlandparkchamber.org

Orland Park vehicle stickers on sale May 26

All vehicles registered to incorporated Village of Orland Park addresses must display a current village vehicle sticker. Applications for the 2009-11 stickers will be mailed to all village addresses in mid-May.

Residents who do not receive a pre-printed application in the mail must come to the Village Hall to purchase stickers or call the Cashier's Office at (708) 403-6170 to request that a form be mailed. Stickers will be available for purchase beginning Tuesday, May 26 through Tuesday, June 30, 2009 without penalty.

Car and motorcycle stickers are $15.00 each while stickers for recreational vehicles are $22.00 each. Trucks vary in price from $22.00 to $127.00 depending on the license plate class. Senior citizens 65 years of age and older may purchase a vehicle sticker for $1.00. Two senior purchases per household are allowed, providing there are two licensed senior drivers at the address.

Village Ordinance #3975, adopted January 17, 2005, states that on July 1, vehicle sticker fees shall be doubled. Stickers for new residents moving into the village must be purchased within 30 days to avoid paying a penalty. Residents who purchase new vehicles during the year must provide proof of purchase date if the vehicle is purchased after June 30, 2009. For more information, please call the Cashier's Office at (708) 403-6170.

Oak Forest Nurse Named MetroSouth Medical Center All-Star

Oak Forest resident Mike Rogge has been named a 2009 all-star nurse by MetroSouth Medical Center (formerly St. Francis Hospital).

"We are grateful for the wonderful, compassionate care each of our outstanding nurses provides every single day. These individuals were selected by their peers and we salute them as this year's standout all-stars," said Cathy Sawyers, R.N., Director of Women's Services at MetroSouth Medical Center.

Each winner was selected through a voting process for consistent display of teamwork, compassion, flexibility and customer service.

Rogge, who has worked for the hospital for the past 13 years, works in the Cardiac Recovery Unit as a clinical nurse manager, providing exceptional care to cardiac patients who are undergoing specialized interventional procedures

To celebrate MetroSouth Medical Center's first Nurses' Week, one all-star was selected by their peers from each of the nursing units. Winners were announced and received certificates of appreciation during National Nurses Week, which is celebrated annually from May 6 through May 12, the birthday of the founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 10

May 19, 2009

Katie and Cory Zamlynski wait for the festivities to begin at the Chicago RidgePark District's Tiny Tot Prom with their instructors, Liz Gertos and Coni Ryan.

The winners of the Chicago Ridge Park District's Ball Fore Golf Tournament

(left); Erik Swanson, 1st place(center); Matt Borawski, 2nd place(right) David Dziekanowski, 3rd place.

The tournament was held at Ball Fore, 6701 W. 107th Street on Sunday, May 3rd.

How to Save the GOP

By: Victor Kamber

There is growing concern over the recent loss of such American icons as Circuit City , the Pontiac Firebird and the Republican Party.

Circuit City and the Firebird are gone, done in by a weak economy. The GOP has been done in by much more than the economy, but there are those who believe the party can be saved, perhaps should be saved, if you really believe our country is better off with two political parties even if one of them has spent the past two decades bad-mouthing the federal government it wants to run.

It is not a pretty picture.

Among Republicans, there are 15 million true believers. They listen to Rush Limbaugh every day, believe everything he says and worship the airwaves he unbalances.

Then there are the moderates, thoughtful, hopeful their party will come to grips with problems that trouble average citizens. At last count, there were nine of these (eight, if Rush has his way with Colin Powell).

Even though the numbers favor Rush and the ditto-heads, Republicans on Capitol Hill don't want to write off the moderates. Losing a "liberal" like Arlen Specter was okay, but those two women Senators up in Maine should be saved if the East Coast is not to be abandoned altogether.

Southern officeholders, those with the safe seats who can and do say the most outrageous things that leave GOP voters elsewhere gasping and changing their registration, are to do what they were taught as children: be silent and let the adults speak.

The party has to get some new, attractive, young leaders. Newt Gingrich has been around for such a long time people often forget why they don't like him. Minority whip Eric Cantor is a bright young man who has good ideas but comes across as someone about to foreclose on your house. He and the party also need reminding that while "no" may be a tactic, it is not a policy for rebuilding America .

Above all, the party must put a "cone of silence" over Dick Cheney. They've got to get the man to shut up. During his last year in office, Cheney was rarely heard from, and when the economy came apart at the seams he had nothing to say, leaving all the heavy-thinking to W (and we know how that turned out).

When they left the White House, W's approval ratings were the lowest of any president, ever, but compared to Cheney he was FDR. A tight-lipped W went back to Texas , leaving his legacy to the Ari Fleishers and Fox News. Cheney bounded out of his bunker as if on steroids, appearing on more channels than "Law and Order" re-runs, praising torture and expressing disgust at Republicans like Powell.

Finally, Republicans have to get a grip on taxes. Despite everything Grover Norquist has told them, cutting taxes does not solve every problem. The party needs to understand that our government can't function without taxes. Despite what Rush tells you, taxes are needed for more than just Medicaid and food stamps. Taxes pay for schools, highways and sewer systems. Taxes pay for our military war machine that the GOP leadership can't have enough of—they keep throwing money (taxpayer money) at new weapons systems the Pentagon says it doesn't need.

While the GOP picture may look grim now, we Democrats have been there. We know they just might be one obscure community organizer away from turning it around.

Military News

Army National Guard Pfc. Christopher T. Presler has graduated from the Direct Fire Infantryman One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga. The training consists of Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training.

During the nine weeks of Basic Combat Training, the soldier received training in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history, core values and traditions. Additional training included development of basic combat skills and battlefield operations and tactics, and experiencing use of various weapons and weapons defenses available to the infantry crewman.

The Advanced Individual Training course is designed to train indirect fire infantry soldiers to employ, fire and recover anti-personnel and anti-tank mines; locate, neutralize and extract mines; map reading and ground navigation; operate and maintain communi-cations equipment and radio networks; construct and camouflage mortar firing positions; operate and maintain mortars and fire control equipment for individual/crew served weapons firing positions.

Presler is the son of Karen Presler of Deland Court, Tinley Park, Ill. The private graduated in 2004 from Victor J. Andrew High School, Tinley Park, and received an associate degree in 2006 from Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills, Ill.

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B-MAC EDITION

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 10

May 19, 2009

Blue Island Library introduces their various programs

"Superman... American Icon!" at Blue Island Library On Wednesday June 17th @ 7:00 pm, Television Historian and Pop Culture Expert, Dr. Steve Hofer explores the complete story of "That Strange Visitor From Another Planet" at Blue Island 's Library. Hofer, the founder and curator of the Philo T. Farnsworth Museum of Television History, will also display enuine props from the Superman Movies & TV Shows as part of his presentation! Space is limited and tickets are required. Tickets are Free at the Library's Main Desk. Blue Island Library at 2433 York in Blue Island is handicapped accessible. For information, call Dan Carroll at I-708-388-1078 X 30.

Chef Mike's Summer Grill'n Spectacular!' On Tuesday, June 23rd @ 7:00 pm, at Blue Island Library, Chef Mike Niksic answers your 'Grill'n' questions...gives you ideas how to serve YOUR favorite foods... talks about about grill prep...building a fire...choosing utensils... offers cool recipes for seasoning hits ... and shares some samples of his Grill specialties! By Ticket Only ...Tickets are available at the Library's Main Desk for $2.00 each Blue Island Library is at 2433 York in Blue Island . The Library is handicapped accessible. For information, call Dan Carroll at 1-708-388-1078 X 30

Blue Island Library Continues to Celebrate the Lincoln Bicentennial with a New Series of Lincoln Events in June! · Throughout June, the Library hosts a museum quality exhibit on the "Lincoln-Douglas Debates" commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Debates. It is coordinated by the Metropolitan Library System and the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition on behalf of the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Communities. The exhibit features maps and text explaining the context of the debates and their outcomes. · On Wednesday, June 10th at 11:30 a.m. the Library and Blue Island 's Senior Office present a slide presentation entitled "IMAGES OF LINCOLN", featuring Art Historian, Professor Jeff Mishur of Art Excursions LTD. Space is limited and a light lunch will be offered. Tickets Are free and will be available at the Library's Main Desk and at the Blue Island Senior Office, 13051 South Greenwood in Blue Island . The event will take place at the Library, 2433 2433 York ·

Thursday, June 11th at 7:00 p.m. the Library & Blue Island 's Historical Society present 'A DEBATE BETWEEN STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS and ABRAHAM LINCOLN'. The evening will feature actors Mike Krebs as Honest Abe and Larry Deimer as the Little Giant and will take place *on the lawn at* Blue Island 's Historical Society, 13018 Maple. So bring a lawn chair and a friend or two or three and enjoy the night! (If it rains or snows, the debate goes on inside the Historical Society's Main Room!) Call Dan Carroll at 1-708-388-1078 X 30 for more information or to seek a special accommodation.

Eugene (Gene) Moore
Recorder of Deeds

Loan Modification savior or Predator

Loan modification is the new lexicon of the real estate industry. Is it a savior as implied or a re-dressed predator? We shall see in the months to come when the purveyors of loan modification call, and they will call, cautiously welcome them with a jaundice eye.What is loan modification and should you modify your exiting mortgage?

President Obama has proposed mortgage modification to save family homes and to shore up and revive the real estate industry. Mortgage modification is geared toward mortgagors who have fallen behind in their mortgage payments and are at risk of loosing their homes.

Delinquent mortgagors must be a minimum of three (3) months delinquent on their mortgage payments. The modification entails rolling delinquencies into a new mortgage, giving the home owner a fresh start or if the home owner's existing mortgage is an ARM (adjusting rate mortgage) that is about to adjust, re-writing it to a fixed interest rate and term. The adjusting interest rate could put the mortgagor in financial difficulty such that they could not address the mortgage debt. In this case the ARM mortgage would be converted to a fixed rate mortgage with a definite term, 30, 40, or in some cases 50 years.

Mortgagors who are delinquent need to think about modification. Not just about the modification, but what the modification will cost and its financial impact upon household income. You should consider the amount, if any, of negative equity that may exist both before and after mortgage modification. Even though your interest rate may have been lowered, did your monthly mortgage payments increase?

Consult a FHA approved loan modification entity to get the real low down on mortgage modification. A little research can prevent a lot of heartache, disappointment and the possible loss of your home.

Eugene "Gene" Moore
Cook County Recorder of Deeds

Reservations still accepted for Chicago Bowen High School for Class of 1969

More Than 100 Alumni Attending, Elementary School Reunions Also Planned

Join the more than 100 alumni (and counting) planning to attend Chicago's Bowen High School class of 1969 40th reunion celebration Saturday, July 25, at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza in downtown Chicago.

"We're hearing every day from more and more Bowen class of '69 graduates and other Bowen grads and anticipate a great evening of reconnecting and remembering," said Laura Gavzer Schwartz, chairperson of the reunion committee. "We hope even more of our fellow classmates will reserve their tickets and join us for the fun."

Tickets are $110 per person and $195 per couple, and may be purchased via credit card through PayPal or by check. To charge your tickets, visit the special Bowen Class of '69 reunion Web site at http://www.freewebs.com/bowen1969reunion and click on the "Pay Now" icon. Or, send a check to Phyllis Volk, 250 E. Pearson St. , Unit 906, Chicago , IL , 60611 . Make checks payable to Phyllis Volk and indicate Bowen Reunion in the memo section.

The night's program begins at 6 p.m. It will include dinner, music, dancing, karaoke and more, with local actor, government official and South Side native "Cadillac" Seth McCormick handling the important DJ duties.

In addition, elementary school mini-reunions for Caldwell, Hoyne, Luella, Sheridan, Thorpe and Warren are scheduled Friday night, July 24 and Saturday afternoon, July 25 in a special hospitality suite at the hotel. Specific times are listed on the reunion Web site. A "day after" party also may take place at a site still to be determined Sunday, July 26.

The Holiday Inn Mart Plaza , located at 350 N. Orleans St. , will offer special room rates to Bowenites. Those reservations must be made by June 24 by calling 312-836-5000 and mentioning Bowen Class of 1969 Reunion .

Further details on the event, a guestbook, photos, historical perspectives and list of grads planning to attend are available at the Bowen reunion Web http:/ www.freewebs.com/bowen1969reunion.

For additional information, call Brett Weiss at 630-248-5405.

Attention Veterans:

In partnership with the Illinois Dept. of Employment Security (Burbank), Moraine Valley Community College will hold their quarterly Veteran Information Session on Friday, June 12th, 9:00am – 11:30am, Fogelson Theatre, Building T. This session will focus on starting a business and becoming an entrepreneur. Learn about: writing a business plan, small business loans, how small businesses survive tough economic times and the entrepreneur series offered by the college. Admissions & financial aid info will be available. For more information and reservations, please contact Debbie Wills, willsd6@morainevalley.edu, 708-974-5759. This free session is open to everyone, refreshments will be served.

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VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 35 Number 22

June 2, 2009

Oak Lawn Library Programs for the month of June

15 Oak Lawn Artists on Exhibit

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will hold their second Annual Oak Lawn Artists Group Show during June and July 2009. There will be a special "Meet the Oak Lawn Artists" event featuring live music by a harpist and light refreshments on Monday, June 8 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the gallery area. Everyone is welcome to attend.

During this two-month exhibition, community members are invited to visit the library's second floor Public Art Gallery to view dozens of original paintings, drawings, and photographs created by 15 Oak Lawn artists, including Linda Atkins, Nancy Carley, Richard Forkin, Lois Gasteyer, Jenny Gembala, James Guenther, Caroline T. Herter, Warren A. Jennings, Henry P. Keane, Michael C. King, Lawrence D. Kuhn, Robert Mayer, Edwin Palenik, Ginger Pender and Raymond Tuminello.

Artists living in and around Oak Lawn who wish to participate in future art shows may pick up an Art Gallery application at the library's Reception Booth. For more information, call 7084224990.

Free Movie: Revolutionary Road

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will host a free movie screening of "Revolutionary Road" on Thursday, June 11 at 2 p.m. In her Golden Globe winning performance, Kate Winslet pairs up again with Leonardo DiCaprio in a story about a young couple struggling to come to terms with their personal problems while living in a Connecticut suburb during the mid-1950s. Rated: R. Running time: 119 minutes. Based on a novel of the same title by Richard Yates. This movie is the first of 12 titles featured in the library's weekly "Reel Books" series of films that are based on a book. For more information, call 708-422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

Free Movie: Gone With the Wind

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will host a free movie screening of "Gone With the Wind" on Monday, June 15 at 10 a.m. In this 1939 American classic, the spirited Scarlett O'Hara and the roguish Rhett Butler carry on a turbulent love affair in the American south during the Civil War and Reconstruction eras. This film won eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture. Starring Vivien Leigh, Clark Gable, Olivia de Havilland and Leslie Howard. Running time: 233 minutes. Snacks at intermission. Based on the bestselling novel of the same title by Margaret Mitchell. This movie is the second of 12 titles featured in the library's weekly "Reel Books" series of films that are based on a book. For more information, call 708-422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

Friends of the Oak Lawn Library Annual Membership Drive

Last year, more than 900 people joined the Friends of the Oak Lawn Library, a nonprofit organization committed to promoting use of the Oak Lawn Public Library, furnishing equipment and materials that are beyond the library's budget and bringing opportunities for cultural enrichment to area residents.

Each spring, the Friends reach out to remind current members to renew their membership and invite newcomers to join up for the first time. The Friends 2009-2010 membership year will run June 1 through May 31.

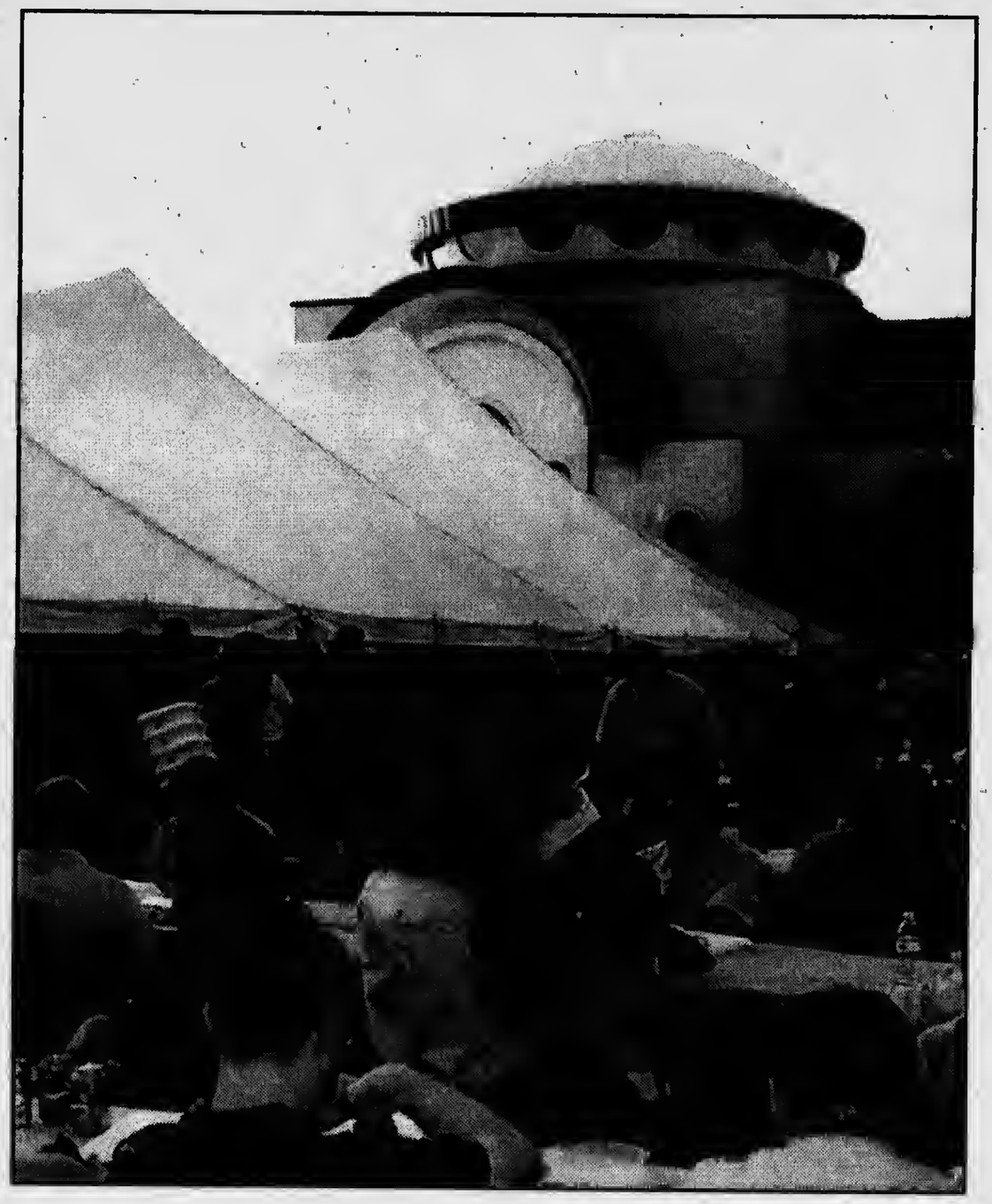
Annual dues are $5 for an individual and $8 for a family, which includes a spouse and any children under age 18. Members receive news updates from the Friends, a $5 discount on most bus trip tickets and access to special members-only events, which includes any large-scale book sale. Membership forms are available at the library's Reception Booth.

For additional information, call Linda Atkins, public relations, 708-422-4990.

Burbank Sertoma Club Golf Outing & Dinner

On Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at 8:00am is registration and at 9:00am is shotgun start at Silver Lakes Country Club 147th Street & 82nd Avenue Orland Park, IL.

There will be open bar at 2 p.m. Dinner at 3:15 p.m. Please Contact Ray Tieri at 708/422-6686 for more information.



Greek Festival Celebrates Father's Day Weekend

The Parish of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Oak Lawn, IL welcomes friends and neighbors to its annual Greek Festival, "OP A Fest!", Friday, June 19th through Sunday, June 21st.

Food offerings include succulent Souvlaki (shishkabob), carefully marinated and skewered by the cooking team, tasty Grecian Chicken, fresh Gyros, mouth-watering Pastichio (Greek lasagna), Spanakopita (spinach and feta in filo pie), Tiropites (feta cheese filled filo triangles), Saganaki (flaming cheese) and more.

The Ladies Philoptochos has baked a wide variety of luscious Greek pastries, cookies and cakes. They will be cooking and serving warm, sweet Loukoumades (Greek dough balls, fried and honey-drizzled) throughout the festival.

St. Nicholas "OPA Fest!" promises fun for the whole family, with kids' rides and games, traditional Greek dance performances, music and dancing, tours of the church, it's a perfect place to celebrate Father's Day.

"OPAFest!" will take place on the church grounds, 10301 S. Kolmar Ave., Oak Lawn, IL. Hours are Fri. June 19 and Sat. June 20, 4:00 - 11:00 pm and Sun. June 21, 3:00 - 10:00 pm. Admission is $2 (children under 12 are free). For more information, call the church office at 708/ 636-5460

Nanotechnology, toxicology and the consumer: Hope or health risk?

W. Shane Journeay, Ph.D

Tiny man-made particles that cannot be seen with the naked eye are rapidly entering the lives of people around the world. Nanotechnology is growing fast despite unknown potential toxic effects on humans and the environment. It may however help with new treatments for cancer and provide engineering marvels.

Nanoparticles can be small spheres, sharp tubular structures, cubes, rods or clumps of particles. Nanotechnology is being studied for thousands of applications that can impact every facet of society, yet accounting for their behaviour in consumer products, in the body, and the environment is proving to be problematic for industry and regulatory bodies such as the FDA, EPA and Health Canada.

Nanotechnology bridges scientific disciplines such as chemistry, biology, physics, and engineering and provides a wide range of applications. In fact, nanotechnology is projected to be so ubiquitous in the world that it is considered a disruptive technology. Nanomaterials are very small particles of approximately 100nm (a human hair can range from 10 000 to 50 000 nm) with unique behaviours and properties. The particles can be produced with complex chemistry but essentially they are created by decreasing the size of larger particles down to very small ones or, conversely, building nanoparticles by piecing together atoms and molecules into nanoscale particles with cutting edge tools. Particles reduced to this size take on new properties for which researchers hope to exploit for commercial benefit. These new properties, however, may also cause toxicity in a different manner than traditional chemicals.

Nanotechnology is here now

Despite billions of dollars being spent globally on nanotechnology, one recent survey showed that 80% of Americans have heard very little or nothing about its development. Despite this fact, more than 90% of those polled had some opinion regarding the cost vs benefit of this new technology, even when supplied with no additional information.

Consumers, regulatory groups, and industry will often state that we do not have to worry about nanotechnology at present because it is futuristic and will not be relevant for a minimum of 5 to 10 years from now This could not be farther from the truth. In fact, regulatory agencies are already receiving packages for approval for the marketing and application of nanomaterials in raw form as well as in consumer products.

Nanomaterials are already being used in consumer products such as sunscreens, food additives, clothing, cosmetics, tires, sprays, rubber products, catalysts, foam, adhesives, paints, and pigments. Even militaries are studying the application of nanoparticles for improved combustibility of fuels and explosivity of bombs. These are early and modest mainstream applications of nanotechnology being used now whether they are reported as nanotechnology to the consumer or not.

While this exciting technology holds a broad range of promises and improvements in products, energy sources, and medical treatments, it is not magic nor is it all dark, as some groups have portrayed it. In all its flare, nanotechnology is still a science, albeit our ability to work, build, and manipulate at the nanoscale opens up a new window to understanding the foundations of chemistry, physics and biology. Nanotechnology will not cure cancer overnight, but will undoubtedly improve our current diagnosis, imaging, and treatment in oncology. Driving some of the hope of nanotechnology is the National Cancer Institute of the USA which has reported that 'Nanotechnology will change the very foundations of cancer diagnosis and treatment.' Conversely, the opponents of nanotechnology prosperity cling to science fiction literature that uncontrolled self-assembling nanobots will lead to our demise amidst a 'grey goo'.

Protecting the consumer

When is the last time such a widespread technology was allowed to permeate society where the toxic consequences have the potential to impact its contribution to all areas of human and environmental health, industry, and government?

Early studies have demonstrated toxicity of some nanoparticles in mice, aquatic organisms, and cell lines. Of note, nanoparticles can be inhaled and translocated out of the lung to the liver and even into the brain. Other research has shown toxic effects in fish and plants. Ongoing research is being devoted to understanding which chemical properties make nanomaterials toxic and which aspects make them biocompatible.

Toxicity could be the limiting factor to the commercial success and public acceptance of nanotechnology based products. Only a tiny fraction of funding devoted to nanotechnology has been set aside to determine the human and environmental health effects of nanoparticles.Today, the next big paradigm shift is actually really small and our ability to work at the molecular level is undoubtedly facilitating the discovery of new or value-added products in which our very understanding of their function depends on nanoscale biology, chemistry and physics. As with any new technology that moves as fast as nanotechnology the societal impacts are being debated.

A central issue is the potential human and environmental costs and benefits of this technology.These impacts are being portrayed in both a positive and negative light. On one hand, nanotechnology is being hailed for green energy as well as improved drugs and diagnostic ability for diseases such as cancer. However, these benefits are being tempered by some groups who are raising concerns over the occupational, environmental, and consumer health effects of nanomaterial exposure. At present, those wishing to commercialize, invest in, or regulate nanotechnology do not have the resources in which to guide the implementation of nanotechnology such that it meets the considerations of human and environmental health. Moreover, in today's increasingly environmentally green culture, human health and environmental impacts will directly relate to the financial success of a product.

Difficult to regulate

There is considerable ambiguity over what constitutes a nanomaterial, thus creating huge challenges for corporations trying to foresee the regulatory hurdles of nanotechnology based products. Furthermore, government agencies are not prepared from a regulatory perspective because deciding what specifically to taget for regulation is a complex task. As a result, many nanotechnology based products are entering the market and the bodies of consumers at a rapid pace without solid information on their toxicity. At present, there are some groups claiming nanotechnology-based value in their products, while others have nanomaterials in their product and do not report such ingredients.

When we look at recent problems in the environment such as Bisphenol A, it begs the questions, what will the consumer, regulatory, and industrial response be when we have nanomaterials in baby bottles, food packaging, clothing and cosmetics?

The great unknown in nanotechnology is whether the increased production, handling, and exposure to nano-products will lead to adverse effects in humans and the environment. There are at least two camps in this debate. Some say to move forward with the development and wait and see what scientific conclusions can be made about nanomaterials toxicity. At the other end of the spectrum are those who wish for strict adherence to the precautionary principle and hope for a complete moratorium on nanotechnology development before proceeding with research, development, and commercialization.

Nanotechnology is here to stay and it is evolving rapidly with over 800 nano-enhanced products on the market right now. Even in the midst of a recession, nanotechnology will continue to develop and enter consumer products. While nanotechnology holds great promise for medical, energy, and environmental applications, its human and environmental impact will continue to pose a challenge to regulatory bodies and the increasingly 'green-minded' consumer.

What can be done

While there is no easy solution to the potential toxicity associated with nanotechnology, history would indicate that if government and industry can take proactive measures to steward these materials through consumer markets that adverse human, environmental, and economic consequences from the past might be avoided. Specifically education and training on the effects of nanoparticles are crucial for industry to set a lifecycle plan for their products and for regulatory groups to make sound scientific decisions. Consumers can also check products for nanotechnology ingredients or contact the manufacturer of the products they are questioning.

Biography – Dr. W. Shane Journeay, Ph.D

Dr. Journeay is a recognized expert on the toxicological aspects of nanomaterials. Journeay received his BSc and Masters Degrees at the University of Ottawa and earned his Ph.D. in Toxicology at the University of Saskatchewan. He was also awarded a Certificate in Space Studies from the International Space University. Dr. Journeay is a toxicologist with specialization in respiratory toxicology and the potential human and environmental health risks associated with nanotechnology. An author of numerous peer-reviewed articles and technical papers related to nanotoxicology, Dr. Journeay has served as an invited presenter and expert to organizations including: the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Health Canada, American Industrial Hygiene Association, and the Alberta Occupational Health Nurses Association. He also represented Canada at the International Space University in Strasbourg France, where he participated in a team project on micro and nanotechnologies in the space industry. A leader in the field of nanotoxicology, Dr. Journeay's education, experience, and knowledge makes him exceptionally well qualified to guide training and consultation services to organizations seeking to exploit the opportunities presented by nanotechnology-based products while carefully assessing the potential risks and adverse effects. Dr. Journeay is also the CEO of Nanotechnology Toxicology Consulting and Training (NTC&T). NTC&T was formed to meet the increasing demand for education, training, and consulting on the human and environmental health effects of nanotechnology. NTC&T provides cutting edge, unbiased, and balanced curriculum, training and consulting for use in decision making by nanotechnology stakeholders including, industry, corporations, investors, government and academia.

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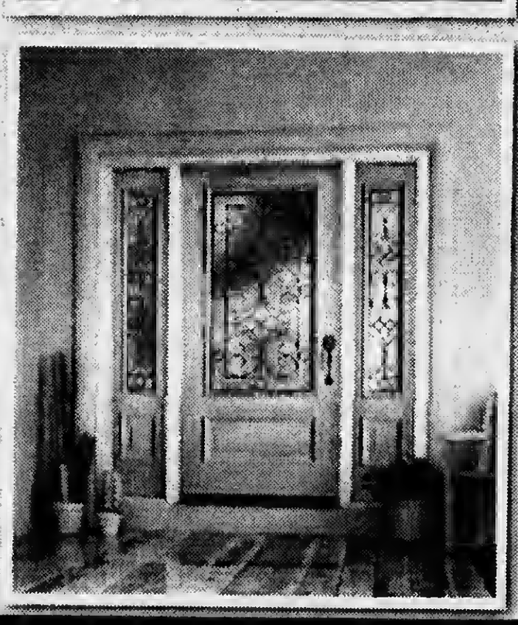

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OAK FOREST HOSPITAL OF COOK COUNTY WILL HOST

KIDNEY & DIABETES SCREENING
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2009 1:00PM UNT'L 6:00PM

The National Kidney Foundation of Illinois (NKFI) partners with Oak Forest Hospital of Cook County , an affiliate of the Cook County Health and Hospitals System, to provide free kidney and diabetes screenings to south city/south suburban residents. Appointments are not required.

NKFI'S Kidney Mobile will address the topics of kidney disease prevention and management of diabetes and hypertension, two leading causes of kidney disease. One in three adults aged 20 and older, have high blood pressure.

More than 600,000 Illinois residents have chronic kidney disease.

Mark you calendars for Tuesday, June 16, 1:00 pm until 6:00 pm at Oak Forest Hospital of Cook County, 15900 South Cicero Avenue , Oak Forest, in the Oak Forest Hospital Auditorium. Participants should enter at 159 St. & Cicero Ave. entrance, proceed to the screening site; following the directional signs.

Contact: Call the Planning and Public Affairs Department, 708/633-3600, for more information.

The Louis S. Viverito Senior Center hosting tribute

A Tribute to Mae West Come face to face with a Hollywood legend. A woman decades ahead of her time, Miss West was all charm, wit and grit—she called her own shots and wrote her own material.

The Louis S. Viverito Senior Center located at 7745 S. Leamington in Burbank will be hosting a Tribute to Mae West for the Father's Day Party on Friday, June 19, 2009. The tribute features nine rare songs, jokes, history and Hollywood gossip. Join us for a fun filled day of entertainment featuring Mary Anne Burkhalter performing her popular Tribute to Mae West.

The party begins at 9:30 A.M. Lunch will be served at 11:30 A.M. To register for the party please call (708) 636-8850.

St. Gerald Parish holds a religious celebration

May, a traditional May Crowing of Mary took place at the grotto shrine of Mary . Pictured are the First Communicants and Fr. Malcolm, pastor. Eighth graders and the second grade First Communicants were part of the procession and Court of Honor during the Prayer Service.

The names of the second grade children (not parents) start at the bottom right and follow the line of children as they process toward the statue of Mary.

Trinidad Arteaga, Timmy Desmond, Brian Hickey, Mike Potok, Joey Biederman, Danny Reardon, Joshua Wood, Sean Ballard, Nate Milianti, (backs shown)Sinai Barraza, Matt Wooldridge,and Zack Zobak

The school will be closed from May 22-Mary 25. Offices will reopen on the 26th.

Advertise your Restaurant for Father's Day, Party Room, Catering Service. Advertise your, Limo Services, Bus Tours or Charter Services, or your Special Events.
Call Linda for details 312-624-8996.

OAK LAWN SENIOR HAPPENINGS

On Friday, June 12th Lifeline Screening, the leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings in the U.S. will be at the Center. Cardiovascular disease is the #1 killer of both men and women and a leading cause of permanent disability. Screenings will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. To make the necessary appointment please call 1-800-679-5192.

On Monday, June 15th at 10:00 a.m. professional harpist Renee Wilson will entertain. She specializes in classical pop, jazz standards and traditional Irish music. The harp can work especially well to warm up a room and provide a soothing, sophisticated ambience.

On the last Thursday of the month a box lunch is planned. The success of the day is all thanks to local businesses who offer to sponsor the program, therefore making the day affordable to Oak Lawn seniors. June's sponsor is Autumn Green at Midway Village located at 6700 South Keating in Chicago. Autumn Green offers spacious one and two bedroom apartments as well as services and amenities that provide the opportunity for more freedom and independence for residents. Representatives will discuss "Dining for Wellness". They believe that healthy dining impacts certain chronic conditions, time to socialize and an opportunity to practice self-care.

The must see presentation begins at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch and bingo. Tickets may be purchased at the Center for $3.50. Seating is limited. For further details on any of the activities you may call 499-0240 or stop by the Center at 5330 West 95 Street for a calendar of events.

Joint efforts to give caregivers the tools to help theirself

Stickney Township Office on Aging and Solutions for Care to host Powerful Tools for Caregivers Class The Powerful Tools for Caregivers Program is designed to assist caregivers in taking care of themselves while caring for a loved one.

The caregiver will learn to: reduce stress, improve self-confidence, better communicate your feelings, balance your life, increase your ability to make tough decisions, and learn to locate helpful resources. Powerful Tools for Caregivers class will meet on Thursdays for six weeks from 2:00-4:30 P.M. beginning June 4, 2009. The class will be held at Solutions for Care located at 7222 W. Cermak Road Suite 200 in North Riverside. Refreshments will be served.

For more information and to register please call Stickney Township Office on Aging at (708) 636-8850.

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Oak Lawn Chamber To Host 3rd Annual Pet Parade and Shop Oak Lawn Sale

May 26, 2009 – The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce, with support from the Village of Oak Lawn , will host its third annual Pet Parade and Shop Oak Lawn Sale on Saturday, June 13.

The Pet Parade will step-off from the Oak Lawn-Hometown Middle School at 99th Street and 54th Ave. at 10:00 a.m. It will continue north to the Village Green at 94th and Raymond Ave. Leading the parade will be members of the VFW Local Johnson-Phelps Post #5220, the Stock Yard Kilty Band and Miss Illinois International, Christine Boll – an Oak Lawn native.

Following the parade, prizes will be awarded for contestants in the "Best Dressed Pet" and "Pet-Owner Look-a-Like" competitions, sponsored by Petco and Petland. Participants are encouraged to register for the parade at one of the following locations: Petco (6220 W. 95th Street), Petland (111 Commons Drive), Archer Bank (5400 W. 95th St.), Oak Lawn Chamber Office (5314 W. 95th St.) or online www.oaklawnchamber.com.

There is no cost to participate in the parade, but all dogs must be vaccinated. Those without pets are invited to decorate their bicycle, wagon or stroller and march along. The Shop Oak Lawn Sale will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Residents and visitors will have the opportunity to shop more than 30 local merchants including women's clothing and check out new car inventory from the Oak Lawn Auto Dealers.

More than 40 cars will be on display. Shoppers can enjoy food, free children's entertainment including a Beagle Fun Jump and kid's area. Bike Psychos Cycling Club will provide free bike safety checks for kids and host a raffle for free bike helmets.

For more information, or if you own or operate a business in Oak Lawn and are interested in participating in the Shop Oak Lawn Sale, please contact the Chamber office at (708) 424-8300. Founded in 1946, today the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce consists of more than 325 members.

The Chamber of Commerce works to represent and advance the Oak Lawn business community, striving with constant integrity, fairness and cooperation to promote and improve the economic atmosphere, business climate and image of Oak Lawn .

Military News

Army Reserve Pvt. Steven J. Kopel Jr. has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.
He is the son of Kathleen Kopel of W. 173rd Place, Tinley Park, Ill.
The private is a 2006 graduate of Tinley Park High School.

Hickory Hills honor student is on dean list

David M. Ferkaluk, son of William and Mary Lynn Ferkaluk of Hickory Hills, was named to the Cedarville University Dean's Honor List for the 2008 Fall and 2009 Spring Semesters. David is a sophomore majoring in history and public administration. To be named to the CU's Deans Honor List, a student must earn a 3.75 GPA for the semester, be carrying at least 12 semester hours, and have no grade lower than a "B" for the semester.

Cedarville University is an accredited, Baptist university of arts, sciences, professional, and graduate programs. Located in Cedarville, Ohio, near Dayton, the University offers 100 areas of study to more than 3,000 students.

Scandinavian Park announces their celebration dates

Sunday, June 7, 2009 – The Dedication Ceremony of The Heritage Walkway presented by Scandinavian Park, Inc. NFP at Vasa Park, Route 31, South Elgin, IL from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Light refreshments. Please RSVP to the ScanPark hotline at 847-695-6720 by May 27th or ASAP.

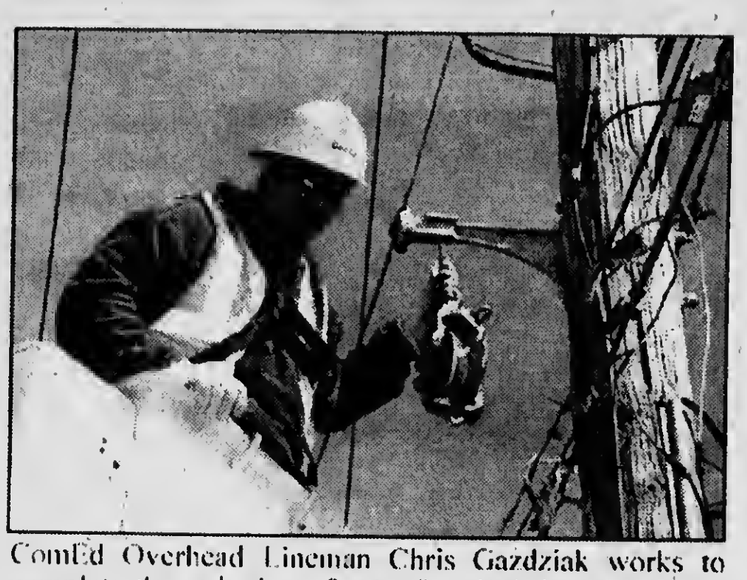
Saturday, June 27, 2009 – The 4th Annual Scandinavian Midsommar Celebration at

Vasa Park, Route 31, South Elgin from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Adults $5.00, Children 12 & Under FREE. Visit

www.vasaparkil.com

Oak Lawn Theatre News

On Sunday, May 31, 2009, the Oak Lawn Park District held a 20th anniversary of the Oak Lawn Theater. After the performance of the 20th Anniversary Review, which were snipits from 20 years of theatrical performances the announcement was made that the Oak Lawn Theatre was one of 15 finalist in a national wide program in fostering community relations throughout theatre and enriching the Oak Lawn Community through theatre.



ComEd Overhead Lineman Chris Gazdziak works to complete the stringing of new electrical line along Cal-Sag Road. The work was part of a $2.4 million investment by ComEd to maintain reliable service for customers in and around Worth and Crestwood

ComEd Invests Nearly $2.4 Million to Maintain Reliability In and Around Worth, Crestwood

To maintain reliable electric service to customers in and around Worth and Crestwood, ComEd has invested more than $2.4 million to enhance a local substation, which will be especially beneficial during the peak use summer period.

Completed last month, the work features installation of nearly 5 miles of new distribution line. This includes in Worth along Ridgeland Avenue from 127th Street to Cal-Sag Road and in Crestwood along Cal-Sag Road from Kostner to 127th streets.

The lines directly serve about 3,700 business and residential customers in those communities, but the work provides benefits to most area residents by providing additional reliable pathways when electrical load must be shifted to quickly restore customers during storms and when other unplanned outages occur.

"Despite economic pressures from the global recession, ComEd is committed to maintaining system reliability through targeted local investments like these," said J. Barry Mitchell, ComEd's president and chief operating officer. "We are pursuing every way to become more cost-effective and ensure reasonable rates for our customers, and our primary customer commitment remains unchanged – to keep the lights on."

Since 2001, ComEd has invested more than $5 billion to expand and upgrade its transmission and distribution systems. This has resulted in a 39 percent reduction in the frequency of customer interruptions since 1998, and a shortening of outage duration by 34 percent in the same period.

In addition to these infrastructure investments, the company performs regular maintenance work to ensure reliable electricity delivery, such as vegetation maintenance to free electrical lines from interference, system engineering to achieve optimal equipment operations, and regular visual inspections of above ground electrical lines.

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce
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PETLAND, 110 Commons Drive, Chicago Ridge
PETCO, 6220 W. 95th Street, Oak Lawn
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For more information call the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce at (708) 424-8300 or email office@oaklawnchamber.com
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Evergreen Park Public Library announces June programs

Toddler Time is an interactive story time for children ages 18 to 36 months with a caregiver. Registration begins Monday, June 8th, at 9:00 am. Please register for one of the following sessions: Tuesdays at 3:00 pm; or Wednesdays at 10:00 or 11:00 am from June 16-July 29.

Preschool Story Time at the Evergreen Park Public Library Preschool S tory Time combines stories, songs, and crafts for children ages 3 to 5 years with a caregiver. This program is for children not yet in Kindergarten. Registration begins Monday, June 8th, at 9:00 am. Please register for one of the following sessions: Tuesdays or Thursdays at 10:00 am from June 16-July 30.

Family Story Time at the Evergreen Park Public Library Join Ms. Kelly for stories, songs, and crafts for the whole family Registration begins Monday, June 8th, at 9:00 am. Baby Bookworms will take place on Thursdays at 6:00 pm, June 18-July 30. Please register.

Duct Tape Craft Series at the Evergreen Park Public Library! On Mondays, June 8th and June 22nd from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy , teens, grades 6-12, will learn how to make bags and wallets out of duct tape. Registration required.

Helping your Gifted Child at the Evergreen Park Public Library The Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy , invites all parents to attend "Gifts Unwrapped". A presentation by Tammy Bobel, MA, LPC on how you can give your child what he/she needs to reach their full potential! The program will take place on Tuesday, June 9th at 6:30 pm. Please register.

Gaming: Guitar Hero at the E.P. Library On Wednesdays, June 10th from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy , teens, grades 6-12, are invited to play Guitar Hero and help us to unlock new songs and characters.

Teens in the Kitchen: Homemade Ice Cream & Sundae Bar Chef Kate Bradley will be at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy , on Wednesday, June 10 th from 6:30-7:30 pm, to teach teens, grades 6-12, how to make frosty delicious ice cream and toppings.

Make Unique Jewelry at the Evergreen Park Public Library! On Thursday, June 11th from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy, teens, grades 6-12, will create a wearable jewelry masterpiece using all sorts of things... including old computer parts or guitar picks! Registration required.

Meet Mystery Author Rhys Bowen Agatha and Anthony Award winning author Rhys Bowen will visit Evergreen Park Library for a presentation and book signing on Thursday, June 11th at 7:00 pm. A selection of her books in hardcover, including the newest Molly Murphy (In a Gilded Cage) will be available for purchase ($20) and autographing after the program. Please register.

Teen Movie Matinee at the E.P. Library On Friday June 12 th from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy , teens, grades 6-12, are invited to watch Romeo & Juliet (Leonardo Di Caprio, Clare Danes) on our big screen. Registration required.

Oneliners® Stress Relief Drawing Workshop at the E.P. Library Adults are invited to the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy, on Saturday, June 13th at 10:00 am to a participate in Oneliners® workshop which is a highly effective drawing method that induces a relaxed state of mind in people of all ages and from all walks of life. $15.00 fee is due upon registration.
You can call the library at 708-422-8522.

Italian American Women's Club awards scholarships

For the fourth year in a row the Italian American Women of Chicagoland Club has awarded scholarships to young persons of Italian decent who have fulfilled their requirements.

The nominee has to be recommended by a member in good standing and two letters of recommendation are required. The candidate needs to write an essay on why he/she is proud to be of Italian decent and their future goals in life. Grade transcripts from the school are also included in the submission.

This year's scholarship awards were presented to the following students: Angela Argento, Olivia Volpendesta, Daniel Rizzo, Julian Lazzara, Matthew Rizzo, Loren Gorka, Michael Damico and Patrick Cimalia.

The presentations were made at the banquet in a local restaurant by IAWC president, Francine Lazzara and treasurer, Ginger Morgan. Sr. Mary Ventura OP is vice president and education coordinator. The ceremony noted that over the past four years over $15,000 in scholarships have been awarded. Funding came from the proceeds of two books *Italian American Women of Chicagoland* (Arcadia publishers), which can be purchased at Barnes and Noble and Borders Bookstores and the self published, successful cook book which was sold in various Italian Grocery Stores.

IAWC was founded by Annette Dixon (Owner/publisher Village View Publications) and Sr. Mary Ventura OP head of the ELS program at St. Bernadette School in Evergreen Park. The Club's goal and mission is to foster Italian American Women's achievements and promote them in their endeavor. If you are interested in learning more about the Club, contact Sr. Mary Ventura at 708-857-2005, we welcome new members.

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Chicago Ridge Library has special programs

The Friends of the Chicago Ridge Public Library in partnership with the Chicago Ridge Fire Department will sponsor CPR certification for Health Care Providers on Monday, June 15 th from 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. There is the nominal fee of $20 for Chicago Ridge Residents and $30 for non-residents. Stop by the library at 10400 S. Oxford and pick up a brochure for registration details. Call the library at 423-7753 or visit our website for more information.

The Chicago Ridge Public Library, 10400 S. Oxford, is partnering with ComEd to host, "How to Reduce Your ComEd Bill" on June 11 th at 7:00 p.m. Beat the heat and the recession at the same time. Bring you latest statement to this free program and see what you can do to reduce your bill. Visit: www.thewattspot.com for

Happy Father Day! Bring your father to the Chicago Ridge Library and read a book together.

Farewell to Singing Seniors

Two Oak Lawn Community High School graduates, Phillip Armstrong and Kelli Benke, are bound for a career in music. Both Phillip and Kelli will major in music next year. Mrs. Meredith McGuire celebrated their talents and future aspirations through a special Senior Recital. Phillip and Kelli sang songs in English, French, German, and Italian. They also performed a duet together at the end.

Dear Editor:

I never saw the letter that is refered to in the "Dear Editor" response but I agree wholeheartedly with every thing Mary Beth Prosapio said about teens needing a wake-up call about values and prom.

There is one very important issue Ms. Prosapio never mentioned - deaths on prom night. Already this year there was an episode where there was a crash on an expressway - in one of the Western suburbs - the fault was the limo driver I understand but if you see the crumpled vehicles on lawns of various high schools you will remember past years. Too many underage drivers think Prom entitles them to drink and drive! I am a recently retired high school teacher who has spent the last 34 years trying to reach young people. They do not believe it can happen to them, even when it happens to someone they know- they still break almost all the rules of drinking and driving, curfew and driving way too fast and not buckling up! Most parents have no idea how their children drive and once we give our kids the keys to a car or they bought their own car they often do not respect the rules.

Although it was not prom night my son hurt himself and and his best friend very badly and I always reminded him when he went out. It took over 6 months for him to recover from a bad hand injury and a fractor to his pelvic. We hope they will learn but it is a long hard road for young people to grow up.

Rita Sivric

You're Cordially Invited to Join Scandinavian Park, Inc. NFP in 2009

Come Celebrate the Culture, Heritage & Traditions of Denmork, Finlond, Iceland, Norway and Sweden ot beautiful 25-acre Vasa Park, Route 31 in South Elgin, Illinois located along the Fox River.

VASA PARK

Sunday, June 7: Heritage Walk Dedication, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 27: Fourth Annual Scandinavian Midsammar Celebration, 2 p.m. to Sunset, Adults $5.00, Children 12 & Under FREE
Saturday, August 8: Steak Fry with Crayfish Sampling
Sunday, September 13: The 30th Annual Scandinavian Day Festival, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Adults $10.00, Children 12 & Under FREE * FREE PARKING * Rain or Shine * Look for the Scandinavian flags
Saturday, October 17: 9th Annual Fish Bail/Harvest Festival

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Summer Concert on the Village Green

The Village of Oak Lawn and The Oak Lawn Park District are sponsoring a summer concert on Sunday, June 14, 2009. The Well will perform from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on the Village Green.

Performances are FREE and no reservations are required. Bring your own refreshments and don't forget your blankets or lawn chairs. Food will be available from Oak Lawn Cub Scouts, Christensen's Wagon, and Millie's Ice Cream.

The Village Green is located north of the Oak Lawn Library and directly east of the Municipal Center , 9446 Raymond Avenue . For more information about the Summer Concert Series, please contact Chad Weiler at (708) 499-7837 or email cweiler@oaklawn-il.gov or visit our website at www.oaklawn-il.gov.

Evergreen Park Recreation offers day camp

Preschool day camp (ages 3-5) Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. - runs for 6 weeks - $186.00. starts June 15th.

Mini day camp (entering kindergarten - 11 years old) runs for 5 weeks - Tuesday and Thursday 9:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. $186.00 - starting June 23rd. - held at the Community Center.

All day Camp - (entering 1st grade - 11 years old) Monday thru Friday 9:00 - 3:00 p.m. Runs for 8 weeks $462.00 - we offer a early drop off of 8:00 a.m. and late pick up 6:00p.m. - early drop off is $10.00 extra per week - late pick up is $30.00 extra per week. Ages 6-8 held at Activity Center, 3220 W. 98th street - 9-11 year olds held at Northwest school. - starting June 15th.

Mom & Tots (ages 3 months - 48 months) offered Monday and Wednesday a.m. and p.m. classes (call for specific times) start week of June 8th. $38.00 for 6 weeks - Held at the Community Center , openings are still available. For more information call 708-229-3373.

CARNIVAL NEWS

JUNE 4 THRU JUNE 7

St. Joseph Parish

7240 West 57th Street • Summit

Thursday, June 4	**5:00pm - 11:00pm**	**Saturday, June 6**	**2:00pm - 12:00am**
Friday, June 5	**5:00pm - 12:00am**	**Sunday, June 7**	**1:00pm - 10:00pm**

Entertainment

Thursday, June 4	8:00 p.m.	Mike & Joe (90's Alt. Rock)
Friday, June 5	6:00 p.m.	Caliente
	9:00 p.m.	ARRA (Journey Tribute)
Saturday, June 6	3:00 p.m.	World's Honkiest Polka Band
	6:00 p.m.	Decades (60's - 80's)
	9:00 p.m.	American English (Beattle's Tribute)
Sunday, June 7	1:00 p.m.	Four Alarm (Rock and Roll)
	4:00 p.m.	Yard Fulla Cars
	7:00 p.m.	Maggie Speaks

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Saturday 2:00pm - 5:00pm &
Sunday 1:00pm - 5:00pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO VOLUNTEER, CONTACT ST. JOSEPH RECTORY @ (708) 458-0501

Moraine Valley offers network security training for teachers

The Cisco Academy Training Center (CATC), based at Moraine Valley Community College, is providing training programs for teachers this summer throughout the United States and internationally. After attending these sessions teachers will be able to help students earn their Certified Cisco Networking Associate (CCNA) certification.

Cisco is the leading supplier of networking equipment and management for the Internet. CATC has released a new CCNA level networking security curriculum available for students this fall. Before the new curriculum can be taught, teachers can take a "train-the-trainer" session designed by CATC at Moraine Valley. A group of Cisco-certified industry experts this summer will travel across the United States and communicate internationally via WebEx to prepare instructors. WebEx is a Cisco tool that specializes in telecommunications. Everyone involved in the WebEx web conferencing will be able to share documents, presentations and collaborate as if in-person.

Students who start in the fall with this new curriculum will be able to obtain their CCNA security certification. This type of certification meets the needs of IT professionals who are responsible for network security and opens up job opportunities such as network security specialist, security administrator and network security support engineer.

The training began May 26-28 at Moraine Valley in collaboration with a WebEx to Europe and Africa, then continues in several states throughout June and July, and finally culminates back on campus August 5-7.

For more information or to register for the free class visit www.cssia.org.

SXU to hold annual Summer Concert on June 28

Performance by Roy Vombrack Orchestra

Saint Xavier University invites the community to its annual free outdoor Summer Concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, June 28, on the front lawn of the Chicago campus at 3700 W. 103rd St.

The Roy Vombrack Orchestra, from the Orchestra 33entertainment group, will perform crowd-pleasing favorites for listening and dancing. The evening will conclude with a fireworks display at approximately 9:45 p.m.

The concert is free and open to the public, and picnickers are welcome. Refreshments will be available for purchase from The Original Rainbow Cone, Gilhooley's Grande Saloon, Tastee Freez, Cougar Pause and the SXU Alumni Board.

A rain date is scheduled for Sunday, July 19. For more information, please contact Saint Xavier's Office of Special Events at (773) 298-3311 or specialevents@sxu.edu.

Is your School, Church, or Village Hall or Park District having a Carnival, or Festival. Call for Special Rates on Carnival's, Festivals, or Special Events. Ask for Linda at 312-624-8996.

Members of Trout Unlimited (names unknown), Mrs. Bartley-Bogard, Chris DeLorme, David Relstab, Nick Relstab and Dylan Tremmel.

Picture has Chris DeLorme, Member of the Sierra Club (name unknown), David Relstab, and Nick Relstab.

St. Patricia School has science project

The 7th grade class of St. Patricia School in Hickory Hills released trout that they had been raising in the classroom into a river just outside of Rockford on Friday, May 8th. The students released the trout with assistance from members of Trout Unlimited and the Sierra Club . The students also netted fish to examine the species and learned how to take water samples. The trip was a wonderful opportunity to experience hands on learning along with the wisdom of the members of Trout Unlimited and the Sierra Club.

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The Arabian Nights at Lookingglass Theatre

Lookingglass Theatre Company presents The Arabian Nights, adapted and directed by Ensemble Member Mary Zimmerman. This Lookingglass Original completes its tour in Chicago following sold-out runs at Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Kansas City Repertory Theatre. The production is scheduled to run until July 12, 2009, at Lookingglass Theatre Company, located inside Chicago 's historic Water Tower Water Works, 821 N. Michigan Ave. at Pearson.

Tony Award-winning Ensemble Member Mary Zimmerman returns to the Water Tower Water Works with her Lookingglass Original adaptation of one of the world's most enduring works of literature. When he discovers his wife in the arms of another man, King Shahryar vows to ruthlessly murder every virgin in the kingdom. His brutality is interrupted only when he encounters the clever maiden Scheherezade, whose captivating stories may just save her life. This boldly re-imagined visual feast celebrates the redemptive power of storytelling.

"We first produced The Arabian Nights in 1992 in the shadow of the first Gulf War," says Zimmerman. "It remains for us an attempt to embody the remarkable richness of one of the great masterpieces of world literature. In spite of time, distance and the rhetoric of difference, we find in these characters and tales – over and over – ourselves."

Lookingglass Theatre Company's 21st season is marked by impressive Lookingglass Ensemble participation. The Arabian Nights is a notable platform for ensemble acting, one of the trademarks of Lookingglass Theatre Company. The production features Ensemble Members Andy White (Abu al-Hasan), Artistic Director David Catlin (The Robber), Artistic Associate Louise Lamson (Scheherezade) and Artistic Director of New Work Heidi Stillman (Dunyazade).

The cast also includes Barzin Akhavan (Harun al-Rashid), Usman Ally (Mad Man), Ryan Artzberger (Shahryar), Minita Gandhi (The Other Woman), Emjoy Gavino (Boy/Slave Girl), Allen Gilmore (Ishak of Mosul), Susaan Jamshidi (Sympathy the Learned), Ronnie Malley (Musician), Ramiz Monsef (Sage), Nicole Shalhoub (Perfect Love), Louis Tucci (Musician).

Tickets, $30-$60, are available online, www.lookingglasstheatre.org; by phone, (312) 337-0665; or at the Lookingglass Theatre box office, located inside Chicago 's historic Water Tower Water Works, 821 N. Michigan Ave. at Pearson.

Goodman Theatre presents The Crowd You're With

Life and love are not so simple, as three couples with six different perspectives discover in the Chicago premiere of Rebecca Gilman's The Crowd You're In With at Goodman Theatre. Wendy C. Goldberg, a frequent Gilman collaborator and artistic director of the acclaimed National Playwrights Conference at The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center—where The Crowd You're In With was developed—directs this intimate and relevant new play. The Crowd You're In With is the final play in the Goodman's "Strong Women, Strong Voices" three-play series of works written and directed by women (which also included the Pulitzer Prize-winning Ruined by Lynn Nottage and Naomi Iizuka's Ghostwritten) in the Owen Bruner Theatre. The Crowd You're In With runs until June 21.

In the backyard of a Chicago two-flat on the 4th of July, three intelligent and liberal couples engage in what begins as friendly conversation, but soon evolves into a heated debate about the pros and cons of starting a family. Jasper (Coburn Goss) and Melinda (Janelle Snow) are considering having a baby, Dan (Kiff Vanden Heuvel) and Windsong (Stephanie Childers) are enthusiastically expectant and Tom (Rob Riley) and Karen (Linda Gehringer) have opted not to have children. As the innocuous barbeque turns into an ideological confrontation, each couple must ask themselves how much the crowd they're in with determines the course of their lives.

Tickets are $10 - 39, and may be purchased online at GoodmanTheatre.org, at the Goodman Theatre Box Office, 170 North Dearborn Street, or by phone at 312.443.3800. Mezztix are half-price mezzanine tickets available at 12 noon at the box office and at 10am online on the day of performance; not available by telephone. When purchasing online, use promo code MEZZTIX. For students, 10Tix are $10 mezzanine tickets available at 12 noon at the box office and at 10am online on the day of performance; not available by telephone. Valid student I.D. must be presented at will call; limit four tickets per student. All tickets are subject to availability and handling fees apply. Discounted group tickets for 10 persons or more are available at 312.443.3820.

A Tribute to the Black Crooner (Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow) starts June 5

The Black Ensemble Theater Company is thrilled to conclude its Season of Men with the World Premiere production of "A Tribute to the Black Crooner" (Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow). Written by Black Ensemble Theater Associate Artistic Director Rueben Echoles and Dawn Bless, directed by Echoles, and produced by Jackie Taylor, "A Tribute to the Black Crooner" (Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow) pays homage to the music of the legends who paved the way, while celebrating the most popular crooners of today and helping to shape the crooners of tomorrow. Preview performances for "A Tribute to the Black Crooner" (Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow) will begin June 5 at the Black Ensemble Theater, 4520 N. Beacon Street.

Billy Eckstine, Nat King Cole, Roy Hamilton, Joe Williams, Johnny Mathis, and the legendary Arthur Prysock are some of the familiar names of the Black crooner age, but there were other great voices too. Al Hibbler, Jimmy Scott, and many others were also responsible for keeping the classic sound of the Black crooner alive. The tradition is continuing today through the artistry of John Legend, Brian McKnight, Musiq Soulchild, and the popular Luther Vandross. These phenomenal voices and a few others will be featured in "A Tribute to the Black Crooner" (Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow).

"A Tribute to the Black Crooner" (Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow) is the story of the Stevens Family - two generations of crooners - facing the reality that their family business, a 60 year old night club that has been the home for many of the greatest stars, may be coming to an end. The story depicts the struggles, tribulations and finally the triumphs of overcoming and getting through life challenges.

"'A Tribute to the Black Crooner' (Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow) is an experience that you will never forget," notes Black Ensemble Theater Founder and Executive Director Jackie Taylor. "Full of laughter and fun; you'll delight in the dance, you'll be amazed at the history and you'll cherish the music, the beautiful, beautiful music."

The Black Ensemble Theater cast for "A Tribute to the Black Crooner" (Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow) includes Donald Barnes, Michael Bartlett, Donald Manuel, Trinity Murdock, RaShawn Thompson and Magellan Watts as The Crooners. Melanie McCullough, Carrie Abernathy, and Rashada Dawon complete the cast.

Eric Burgher (Sam), Brenda Barrie (Sara) and Jackson Challinor (Miles), standing are pictured at Graceland. Not pictured Darrell W. Cox (Joe)

The World Premiere of Ellen Fairey's Graceland

Chicago's oldest cemetery is the backdrop for Graceland , the story of four lonely Chicagoans whose lives collide one August weekend while the Blue Angels airshow is in town. As fighter jets buzz the skies from dusk till dawn, estranged brother and sister Sam and Sara try to make sense of their father's recent suicide. Sara's one night stand with Joe, an aging lothario, brings further trouble in the form of Joe's mercurial teenage son, Miles. Graceland is a World premiere comedic drama about the loneliness of family, the tenderness of strangers and the unexpected benefits of bad decisions.

Profiles Theatre is intimate and parking is available for $10 at 4100 N. Clarendon two blocks from the theatre. Profiles located at 4117 N. Broadway and open Thur., Fri., Sat., at 8:00 p.m. and Sun. at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are $30, Sun. $25, $5.00 discount for students and seniors. Buy on line at www.profilestheatre.org or call 773-549-1815.

On-stage music will be directed by Jimmy Tillman (who will also be on drums) and arranged by Thomas (Tom Tom) Washington. Musicians include Derrick Barnes (piano), Hank Ford (saxophone), Paul Howard (trumpet), Bill McFarland (trombone), Bernard Reed (bass), and Kenn Smith (guitar).

Joining Jackie Taylor on the production team are Rueben Echoles (associate director, choreography), Denise Karczewski (lighting design), Ron White (sound design), Carl Ulaszek (set design), Evelyn Danner (costume design) and Leah Griffith (stage manager).

Performance Schedule & Tickets

"A Tribute to the Black Crooner" (Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow) will be staged Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m., and is expected to play until August 16, 2009. Preview performances will be Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6, at 8:00 p.m.; Sunday, June 7, at 3:00 p.m.; and Friday, June 12 and Saturday, June 13 at 8:00 p.m. Preview tickets are priced at $40 and regular tickets are $45. Discounts are available for students, seniors, and groups. Tickets are available by calling the Black Ensemble Theater Box Office at 773-769-4451, or Ticketmaster at 312-902-1500, www.ticketmaster.com. Group Tickets are available by calling 773-769-4451. All performances will take place at The Black Ensemble Theater, 4520 N. Beacon in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood.

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Kriti Festival to Celebrate South Asian and Diaspora Literature in Chicago

DesiLit presents the third Kriti Festival, a celebration of South Asian and diaspora literature and arts, to be held June 11-14, 2009, at University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and Roosevelt University. The four-day Kriti Festival is slated to include participant panels, author readings, writing workshops, publishing and marketing seminars, live performances, and question and answer sessions with literary agents and editors. Desi is a person of South Asian ancestry (living in South Asia or the South Asian diaspora), and kriti is pronounced "kree-thee." The second Kriti Festival was held in April 2007, and sample conference video is at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOBDKvKcsDs

Rasaka Theatre Company will present an encore performance of "Yoni Ki Baat," a funny, heartfelt and thought-provoking monologue cycle, loosely inspired by Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues." By combining spoken word, music and dance, Rasaka presents an exploration of female sexuality, seen through the lens of diasporic culture. Like a chain letter passed through the theatrical community, Yoni Ki Baat features contributions from female writers across the country, including six new monologues by local writers.

The Kriti Festival is co-sponsored by the MFA program at Roosevelt University, and the Asian American Resource and Cultural Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The guests of honor are supported by the Kiran Bavikatte Foundation. DesiLit is a Chicago-based organization founded in 2004 that works to build support for South Asian and diaspora writers by organizing readings, workshops, and local events, and by providing mentoring, networking, and professional development opportunities.

The Kriti Festival will be held at two locations, the University of Illinois at Chicago (Thursday-Friday, June 11-12), and at Roosevelt University (Saturday-Sunday, June 13-14). Both sites are wheelchair-accessible.

Roosevelt University: 430 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL (rooms TBA)

UIC: University Hall, 750 S. Morgan St., Chicago, IL (rooms TBA)

Registration is ongoing at www.desilit.org/kriti.php, info@desilit.org and 312-846-6878. Passes purchased from May 2-June 1 are $45/$20, from June 2-10 are $50/$25, and final rates at the door will be $60/$30. Certain events are limited to 200 participants. Festival registration is FREE for Roosevelt University and UIC students, faculty and staff, but must be registered early at info@desilit.org to reserve a spot. Free registration does not include any private meals with keynote speakers, or any workshops with separate charges; those events must be paid for separately.

Paperfolding Workshop

The Log Cabin Center for the Arts, 12700 Southwest Highway in Palos Park, will offer a papercraft workshop on Thursday, June 18, from 9:30 until 12 noon.

Ann Fowler of LaGrange will teach students to make birthday cards using a variety of paper folding techniques. The workshop cost of $16 plus a $6 materials fee. Advance registration is required. For further information, call The Center at (708) 361-3650.

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Obituary

Mildred V. Shields

Mildred V. Shields, age 79; beloved wife of the late Daniel; loving mother of the late David; cherished grandmother of Daniel [Nicole], Kevin Shields and Kathryn [Oliver] McSurley; great grandmother of William Shields and Finleigh McSurley; fond aunt of Louise Wawrzyniak and Maria Knecht.

Mrs Shields was a Plumbing Secretary. She lived in Oak Lawn, IL.

Services was at the Kosary Funeral Home at 9837 South Kedzie Ave, Evergreen Park, IL with Prayer Service. For further information call 708-499-3223.

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Moraine Valley to host Girls Tech Summer Camp

Moraine Valley Community College is offering girls in sixth- through ninth-grade the opportunity to discover and experience non-traditional careers during the Girls Tech Summer Camp.

For four days girls will learn about computer animation, CAD rapid prototyping, nondestructive testing, manufacturing, electronics, and welding through hands-on activities led by professionals. The camp runs June 22-25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the college, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. Lunch is provided. The program costs $20.

Space is limited, and applicants will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Students can register by calling (708) 974-2110 (TTY for hearing impaired 708-974-9556). Use course code PY4-499-001. If the child has previously registered for a Moraine Valley course, she can use online registration at morainevalley.edu.

For more information, contact Workforce Development and Community Services at (708) 974-5735.

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Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program and Title X Family Planning Program at MetroSouth Medical Center

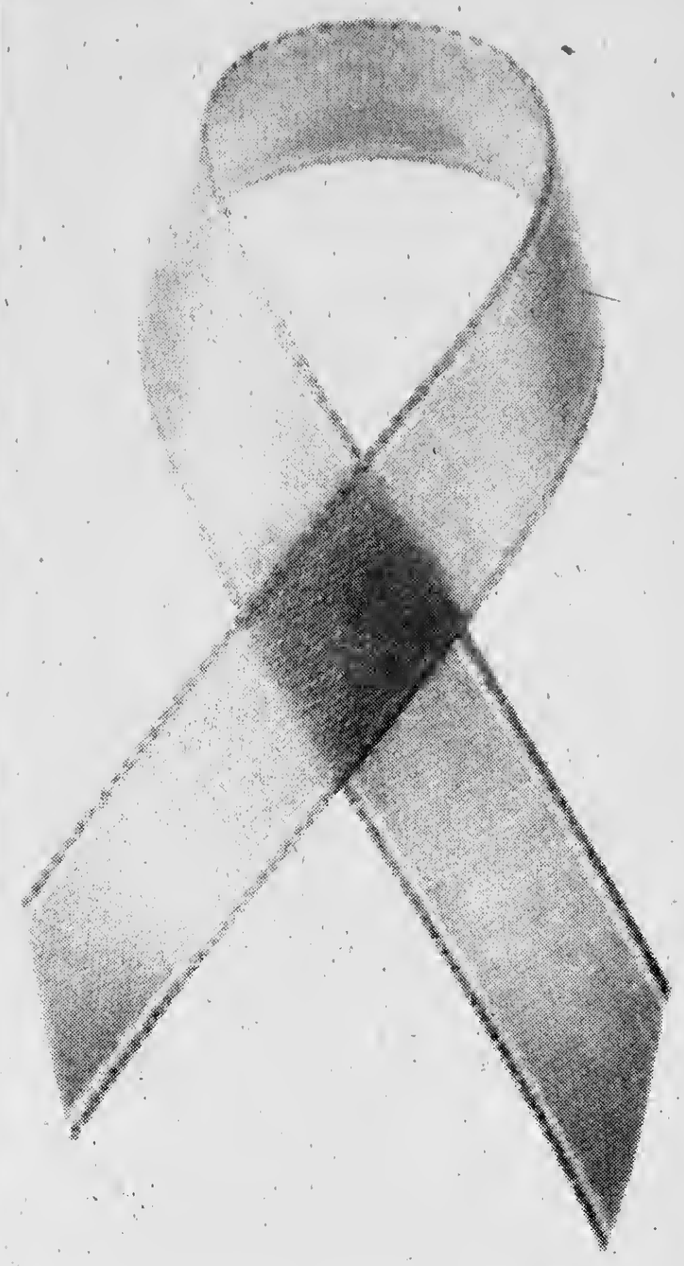
MetroSouth Medical Center, formerly St. Francis Hospital, is proud to announce that we are a Medical Provider for the Research & Education Foundation of the Michael Reese Medical Staff's grant-funded Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP) and the Title X Family Planning Program.

We are now able to offer reproductive health and cancer screenings for uninsured and underinsured women as part of our enhanced women's reproductive health services. Through our bilingual (English/Spanish) and trilingual (English/Mandarin/Cantonese) staff, we also provide breast and cervical cancer awareness outreach education and workshops in the community.

Reproductive health services provided include:

- Physical exam with clinical breast exam and Pap smears
- Birth control — all methods are available
- Mammograms for women 40 and above (under 40 years if clinically indicated)
- Counseling and education including abstinence

The IBCCP and Title X Family Planning Clinic is located in the MetroSouth Pavilion in Suite 4A.
Call 708-489-7940 for additional information or to schedule an appointment.



ILLINOIS BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER PROGRAM

TAKE CHARGE, *get screened*

family PLANNING

IBCCP AND TITLE X FAMILY PLANNING ARE PROGRAMS OF THE RESEARCH & EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF THE MICHAEL REESE MEDICAL STAFF, *ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND *HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

MetroSouth
MEDICAL CENTER

MetroSouth Doctors Pavilion
2310 York Street
(1 block East of 130th & Western)
Blue Island, Illinois 60406
708-489-7940
MetroSouthMedicalCenter.com

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

Far South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 11

June 2, 2009

Enjoy the Southwest Community Band in two locations

The Southwest Community Concert Band, directed by Ray Forlenza, presents "Afternoon at the Movies". Enjoy free popcorn as you listen to music from your favorite movies. During intermission, you can purchase snacks and drinks at the church's Clay Café. This free concert will be held Sunday June 7, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. at the First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 South Bell Road , Lemont. The concert won't be complete unless you hear: "John Williams: The Symphonic Marches" which includes Raiders March from Raiders of the Lost Ark, Imperial March from Star Wars and Olympic Fanfare and Theme. Next concert: June 14, 2009 Sunday 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Free band concert at Klein Park , 3450 W. 97th Street (97th and Homan), Evergreen Park . Bring a lawn chair or blanket. The Southwest Community Concert Band was established in 1982. This adult community band has members from many different communities. New members age 16 through adult are welcome to join. Rehearsals are 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. on Tuesdays at the First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 South Bell Road , Lemont . P.O. Box 246 . Lemont Illinois 60439-0246.Band voice mail 815-773-4159. E-mail: info@swcommunityband.com Band website: www.swcommunityband.com

Village of Tinley Park awards six One Thousand Dollar Scholarships

On May 19, 2009 at the Village of Tinley Park board meeting, Mayor Edward Zabrocki awarded six recipients the one-thousand dollar " Village of Tinley Park Youth Community Service Award Scholarship ".

Fifty applications were received this year and the following are the award winners :

Daniel Anderson- Graduating senior at Marian Catholic High School , plans to attend the University of Notre Dame in South Bend Indiana in the fall, majoring in Accounting.

Lana Bustami- Graduating senior at Tinley Park High School , plans to attend Joliet Junior College in Joliet Illinois in the fall, majoring in Business.

Natalie Fisher-Graduating senior at Victor J. Andrew High School , plans to attend Marquette University in Milwaukee Wisconsin in the fall, majoring in Biology.

Sara Holup-Graduating senior at Tinley Park High School , plans to attend Harding University in Searcy Arkansas in the fall, majoring in Family and Consumer Science Education.

Kara Hranicka-Graduating senior at Victor J. Andrew High School , plans to attend Johnson and Wales University in Providence Rhode Island in the fall majoring in Baking and Pastry Arts.

Rachel Morgan-Graduating senior at Victor J. Andrew High School , plans to attend the University Of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana Illinois in the fall, majoring in Business and Finance.

Oak Forest City Council approves water, sewer code changes

Code changes make it possible to apply for federal stimulus funding

On May 26, the Oak Forest City Council passed three water and sewer code changes so that the city could apply for $7.1 million in federal stimulus funding. The federal funds will help defray the cost of replacing water mains, fire hydrants and valves and installing new water mains on 152nd Street , 153rd Street , 155th Street , Waverly Avenue , Kilpatrick Avenue , Kenton Avenue , Kilbourn Avenue , Long Avenue, and George Brennan Highway .

"In order to get the stimulus funding, we had to make these code changes, which were required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency," said Public Works Director Troy Ishler. "Residents will reap the benefits of the water and sewer upgrades for at least 20 years." Essentially, the approved code changes show the IEPA that the city has a way to fund the projects through water and sewer billing procedures.

The changes also show that both the city and IEPA have inspection powers over the water and sewer systems and that there is an appeals process in place if a resident questions his or her bill.Along with the code changes, the City Council approved a resolution authorizing the city to borrow funds from the IEPA's Public Water Supply Loan Program to help fund the city's portion of the project. The city is eligible to receive a grant of 50 percent – up to $1 million – and zero percent interest loans for the work.

Oak Forest Fire Department recognizes fire personnel, volunteers

On May 28, the Oak Forest Fire Department held its annual awards presentation at Fire Station 1 to recognize firefighters, staff and retirees for their years of service to the community. The department also distributed several special awards to those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

"It's important to take time out and say thank you," said Fire Chief Terry Lipinski. "Whether you've been here one or forty years, you've contributed to the health and safety of our residents and that's something to be proud of. It's nice to be able to recognize these men and women in front of their families and friends."

Although all of the department's full-and part-time firefighters and staff received service pins during the ceremony, Captain James Pioth, who has been with the department for 47 years, received the Distinguished Service Medal. In addition, Chaplain William Stearns received the Humanitarian Service Medal for his service to community members and firefighters.

The department also distributed Meritorious Service Medals to seven firefighters who saved the lives of two residents while responding to a fire on Dover Street. The first-ever Chief's Award, went to 10 volunteers who staff the city's Emergency Management Agency, which provides equipment and volunteer manpower to Oak Forest and surrounding communities during disasters and emergency situations.

Five Oak Forest High School students, who work at the Fire Station as part of a work-study program, also were recognized during the ceremony.

Ribbon cutting ceremony set for Freedom Park

The Tinley Park-Park District will host a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wed, June 3 celebrating the completion of Freedom Park, 7835 Timber Drive in Tinley Park. The ceremony will begin at 6:00 pm with the flag raising by local veterans followed by the ribbon cutting and dedication. Refreshments will be served.

Freedom Park, comprising 15 acres of land, features the only lighted synthetic turf football/soccer field in the village. The field is also used for lacrosse, a sport quickly gaining popularity in the southern suburbs. The park has a softball field and regulation baseball field, both lighted for evening use. A playground featuring a soccer ball climbing apparatus along equipment which provides unstructured play opportunities for youngerchildren.

Tinley Park Bingo every Tuesday night

Tuesday Night Bingo, June 9th

Southwest Community Services, Inc., (SCS), 6775 Prosperi Drive, Tinley Park, hosts weekly Tuesday Night Bingo. Doors open at 5:00 pm. Early bird games at 6:30, bingo at 7:00. Paper, computer, raffle, pull tabs, full concessions. Please, no outside food. Free coffee. Wheel chair accessible, air-conditioned, lighted parking. For additional information, visit www.swcsinc.org or call 708-429-1260.

Tuesday Night Bingo, June 16th

Southwest Community Services, Inc., (SCS), 6775 Prosperi Drive, Tinley Park, hosts weekly Tuesday Night Bingo. Doors open at 5:00 pm. Early bird games at 6:30, bingo at 7:00. Paper, computer, raffle, pull tabs, full concessions. Please, no outside food. Free coffee. Wheel chair accessible, air-conditioned, lighted parking. For additional information, visit www.swcsinc.org or call 708-429-1260.

Tuesday Night Bingo, June 23rd

Southwest Community Services, Inc., (SCS), 6775 Prosperi Drive, Tinley Park, hosts weekly Tuesday Night Bingo. Doors open at 5:00 pm. Early bird games at 6:30, bingo at 7:00. Paper, computer, raffle, pull tabs, full concessions. Please, no outside food. Free coffee. Wheel chair accessible, air-conditioned, lighted parking. For additional information, visit www.swcsinc.org or call 708-429-1260.

Tuesday Night Bingo, June 30th

Southwest Community Services, Inc., (SCS), 6775 Prosperi Drive, Tinley Park, hosts Independence Day Celebration and Grand Opening of their weekly Tuesday Night Bingo. Free Spaghetti Dinner for all players from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. Special door prizes throughout the night! Doors open at 5:00 pm. Early bird games at 6:30, bingo at 7:00. Paper, computer, raffle, pull tabs, full concessions. Please, no outside food. Free coffee. Wheel chair accessible, air-conditioned, lighted parking. For additional information, visit www.swcsinc.org or call 708-429-1260.

Orland Park Chamber looking for golf sponsors

The Orland Chamber's Annual Golf Outing is considered to be one of the best and this year it will be held on Thursday, June 25th at Silver Lake Country Club. Take advantage of this opportunity and make it a part of your 2009 marketing strategy. All donors and sponsors will be recognized in the TribLocal Section of the Chicago Tribune and in an ad sponsored by the 22nd Media family of newspapers including The Orland Park Prairie, The Homer Horizon, The Frankfort Station, The New Lenox Patriot, The Mokena Messenger, and The Tinley Junction. come! All towel sponsors will be assigned a hole sponsorship as well.

We have room for Hole Sponsors and you can make that person-to-person

contact that is so important. We'll set up a table and chairs and you (or your company representative) can personally distribute promotional items and information to the golfers.

Please note that both Oasis Sponsorships, the Golf Cart Sponsorship and Beverage Cart Sponsorships are SOLD OUT!

Plan on spending the day with us on Thursday, June 25th, starting with breakfast, at 9:00 am shotgun scramble, lunch and ending with dinner and prizes.

If you want to set up a foursome, there may still be room, you can call if you have questions 708-349-2972 or send and email to info@orlandparkchamber.org.

Moraine Valley Community College Fine & Performing Arts Center

Calendar Announcements: June-JulyMay 26-Aug. 5 Gallery 2009

Robert F. DeCaprio Art Gallery

Mon.-Thurs.: 9 a.m-4:30 p.m. and during most performances

Moraine Valley will host its 11th annual juried exhibit of works by local artists.

June 1-2

Auditions/Callbacks for As You Like It

By William Shakespeare

6 p.m.

A one- to two-minute monologue is preferred, but readings from the script also will be provided.

The performances will be July 31-Aug. 2. For details, call/e-mail Craig Rosen at (708) 974-5432 or rosen@morainevalley.edu

July 24

Jazz Ensemble's "Hot Summer Jazz" Concert

7:30 p.m.

Dorothy Menker Theater

Tickets: adults $12; seniors and students $10

Cool off with the Moraine Valley Jazz Ensemble in its 3rd annual summer extravaganza.

July 25

Patriotic Chorale Concert

7:30 p.m.

Dorothy Menker Theater

Tickets: adults $12; seniors and students $10

Join Chorale director Nicholas Thomas and the Moraine Chorale and Chamber Singers for an evening of the best of the best patriotic music.

July 28

Summer Percussion Concert 7:30 p.m.

Dorothy Menker Theater Free admission

Join the Moraine Valley Percussion Ensemble for eclectic music played on instruments ranging from traditional to the very unusual.

July 30-Aug 1

Nederlands Dans Theater I performs "Wings of Wax" © Joris-Jan Bos Photography

Auditorium brings world renowned dancing from Nederlands Dans Theater

Nederlands Dans Theater I inspires with innovative modern dance at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, June 16th and 17th. Mixed program includes pieces by resident choreographers

Jiri Kylián, Paul Lightfoot and Sol León, plus the talents of Crystal Pite

The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University (ATRU) and the Sara Lee Foundation proudly present the world-renowned Nederlands Dans Theater I (NDT), which brings ATRU's 2008 – 2009 International Dance Series to a thrilling conclusion with performances June 16 and 17. Tickets are now on sale.

Nederlands Dans Theater has been one of the leading dance companies worldwide since it was founded in 1959, and the company last performed in Chicago more than 35 years ago. NDT is the troupe where Hubbard Street Dance Artistic Director Jim Vincent once danced, and he will return as NDT's new artistic director this fall.

Nederlands Dans Theater has been one of the leading dance companies worldwide since it was founded in 1959. "NDT must be Europe's classiest and most accomplished modern dance company; their trademark being slick, gorgeously lit, gorgeously danced movement with a deep balletic grace and sharp modern angles," raves The Daily Telegraph (London). The company last performed in Chicago more than 35 years ago. NDT is the troupe where Hubbard Street Dance Artistic Director Jim Vincent danced from 1978 - 1990, and he will return as NDT's new artistic director this fall.

The NDT company of 30 dancers utilize their background in classical training to present innovative modern dance that is critically acclaimed throughout the world. For their two-night only Chicago engagement, the company will perform "Shoot the Moon," choreographed by the team of Paul Lightfoot and Sol León. The piece provides a glimpse into various couples' love lives. Rotating walls with striking black and white wallpaper create three separate rooms, each with its own story. Entire worlds are brought to life through intriguing theatrical effects, live video projection and music by Philip Glass.

Another piece to be performed in Chicago is "Wings of Wax," choreographed by Jiri Kylián (known to Chicago audiences as choreographer of Hubbard's "Sechs Tanze") with music by John Cage, Philip Glass, Johann Sebastian Bach and Heinrich von Biber. The piece opens with the dramatic image of a bare tree hanging crown downward with its roots in the air above the stage. Surrounding it, a low-slung spotlight traces a huge circle. Dancers emerge out of the black background, only to be absorbed back into it again. Never predictable and never forced, the piece showcases how Kylián's movements are so complicated that the eye can hardly follow all that is happening on stage.

Also on the program is "The Second Person," choreographed by Crystal Pite, one of the hottest up-and-coming talents in modern dance. 24 dancers dressed in smart men's suits and stern glasses bring to life a puppet that lies on the stage. Against the backdrop of a cloudy sky, dancers "escape" from the core group in pairs or on their own. The piece concludes when the dancers and puppet return for a breathtaking and surprising final scene.

Nederlands Dans Theater I tickets are now on sale. Single ticket prices are $30 / $45 / $59 / $69 / $89. For tickets, visit the Auditorium Theatre box office at 50 E. Congress Parkway; call Ticketmaster at (800) 982-ARTS; or log on to ticketmaster.com. For general information, please visit auditoriumtheatre.org.

Discounted tickets are currently available for groups of 10 or more. For more information on group sales, call Beth Bullock at (312) 431-2357 or e-mail bbullock@auditoriumtheatre.org.

Teachers may e-mail education@auditoriumtheatre.org for information on educator

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 11

June 2, 2009

Worth Public Library gives residents Ravinia passes

Beginning on Saturday, June 6th, the Worth Public Library will be giving away free lawn passes to select performances at Ravinia. The passes are available to Worth residents only. Residents may select one date per visit, one visit per day. Dates are available at Worth Public Library and on the Internet at www.worthlibrary.com/ravinia.htm The Worth Public Library is located at 6917 w. 111th Street, Worth, IL.

Friends of Chicago Ridge Library sponsors programs

The Friends of the Chicago Ridge Public Library, 10400 S. Oxford, are sponsoring the following computer classes.

Introduction to Computers, Saturday, June 13th at 10 am until 2 p.m.

Learn basic computer skills in this beginner's workshop. Practice with the mouse, learn how to work in the Windows environment.

Introduction to the Internet, Saturday, June 20th at 10 am until 2pm

Learn how to navigate the Internet. You will complete basic searches and find information on the World Wide Web.

Clean Up & Tune Up, Saturday, July 18th at 10 am-Noon

Give your computer a boost! Learn how to clean it up and delete old and hazardous files to optimize performance.

There will be a $10 fee for Chicago Ridge residents, and $15 fee for non-residents for each class. For more information stop by the library.

The Chicago Ridge Public Library, 10400 S. Oxford, is hosting James Bilder, author of: A Footsoldier for Patton, on Thursday, June 18 at 7 p.m. Bilder, former mayor of the Village of Worth, gives a frank account of his father's World War II days in the "Red Diamond" Infantry in the US Third Army.

James will share his father's role from the beaches of Normandy, throughout France and finally to Germany. Books will be available for purchase and autographs, $25 cash or local check, only. Stop by the library or call 423-7753 with any questions.

The Chicago Ridge Public Library, 10400 S. Oxford, is hosting David Clark's "Route 66 on a Tank of Gas" on Monday, June 22nd at 7:00 p.m. Join David Clark, Route 66 historian, and learn about the cool adventure your family can take right here in Illinois! Learn about the interesting historical sites, museums, and restaurants that give 300 miles of the Land of Lincoln its personality and character. Special Raffle for Attendees! Call the library, 423-7753, with any questions.

Palos Park Library offers personality workshop

Personality expert offers workshop at Palos Park Public Library Personality expert and award-winning author Sheila Glazov will present her workshop "What Color Is Your BrainTM?" on Monday, June 8th at the Palos Park Public Library, 12330 Forest Glen Blvd. at 7 p.m.

Glazov's workshop and book answer the question "Why are some people 'a pain in the neck' and others 'a song in your heart'?" and encourage adults and children alike to recognize and respect the best in themselves and others.

By simplifying the complex nature of our character traits and talents, Glazov's personality profile is designed to help people accomplish the following: keep energy up and stress down during challenging times; communicate more effectively and resolve conflicts quickly at home and work; increase harmony and decrease hassles in every facet of life; and "promote fun, not fracas" during summer vacation.

Glazov's innovative style has won her praise in meeting rooms and classrooms in the United States, Canada, Europe and South America. She has appeared on CNN, NBC, ABC, FOX, LIFETIME and WGN TV. Glazov has been interviewed on radio. stations nationwide and featured in the Wall Street Journal and *Chicago Tribune* as well as Chicago, Selling Power, Ladies Home Journal, Women's World, and Seventeen magazines. Today's Chicago Woman newspaper selected Glazov as one of "100 Women Making A Difference."

A member of the International Women's Writing Guild, Glazov will be addressing the Palos Park IWWG Critique/ Networking Group and other interested members of the community at her June 8th workshop. Please call the library at 708-448-1530 to reserve your seat. Space is limited.

Take a cool, new noncredit class at Moraine Valley this summer

Kick start summer fun by enrolling in one of 13 new noncredit classes. Writers, cooks, crafters, gardeners, and others will enjoy this sampling of some of the new offerings. These four-week classes begin the week of June 8 and cost $45 each.

The college has "beefed" up its popular culinary classes with the addition of Pairing Wines with Your BBQ Masterpiece on Monday, June 22, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Held at Cooper's Hawk Winery and Restaurant, 15690 S. Harlem Ave., Orland Park, participants will learn to pair the spicy reds and sweet whites with the tang of summer BBQ and will get an overview on using wine in marinades. The cost to enroll is $75, must be 21 or older. Visit morainevalley.edu/wdcs or Community Services at (708) 974-5735.

Mary Poppins will play through July 12 only at the Cadillac Palace Theatre

Broadway In Chicago and Jewel-Osco are pleased to announce a special offer to Jewel-Osco Preferred Card Members. Card members may purchase a family value pack of four tickets for $99 by using the code PREFER when ordering their tickets to **MARY POPPINS**. The offer is valid for individual tickets on the lower, mid and upper balconies for the 7:30 p.m. performances on Wednesdays and Thursdays and the 6:30 p.m. Sunday performances between and June 21, 2009. No minimum ticket purchase is required and tickets may be purchased individually. Restrictions and handling fees do apply and this offer is subject to availability. This is not valid on previously purchased tickets or with any other offer.

MARY POPPINS features the two original Broadway stars, Ashley Brown as "Mary Poppins" and Gavin Lee as "Bert." A co-production by Disney and Cameron Mackintosh, this stage production is based on P.L. Travers' cherished stories and the classic 1964 Walt Disney film. The show includes the Academy Award®-winning music and lyrics of Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman. The stage production has been created, in collaboration with Cameron Mackintosh, by Academy Award®-winning screenwriter Julian Fellowes, who has written the book, and the Olivier Award-winning team of George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, who have composed new songs and additional music and lyrics.

The performance schedule is Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8:00 p.m., Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and Sundaysat 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Performances for Fourth of July Weekend are Saturday, July 4 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sunday, July 5 at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

No performance will take place on Friday, July 3. Tuesday performances have been added on June 30 and July 7 at 7:30 p.m. There will not be a 6:30 p.m. Sunday performance on July 12.

Ticket prices range from $25 to $90. Premium Ticket Packages, which include prime seat locations and a commemorative souvenir program, are available and range in price from $125 to $150.

Tickets are available at all Broadway In Chicago Box Offices (24 W. Randolph St., 151 W. Randolph St. and 18 W. Monroe St.); the Broadway In Chicago Ticket Line at (312) 902-1400; all Ticketmaster retail locations (including Hot Tix and select Carson Pirie Scott, Coconuts and fye stores); and online at www.BroadwayInChicago.com. Tickets are available to groups of 15 or more by calling (312) 977-1710.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

B-MAC EDITION

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 11

June 2, 2009

Blue Island Chamber announces various programs

Don't miss our Golf Outing on Wed - June 3rd at Meadows Golf Course, 2802 W. 123rd St. (Shotgun start at noon)

Enjoy the taste of some BI restaurants at different holes for lunch; Richie's Too, Rail Grill, Maple Tree, Doubleplay, Beggars, Tenochtitlan and Stefanelli's for Dinner.

$100 for 18 holes with cart, lunch, dinner prizes, gifts & games.

Call 708-388-1000 or email us to sponsor or attend.

2. TGIF Picnics (9 Fridays)Weekly on Friday until July 31st, 11am - 2pm

Award for the "Cutest Dog" in Blue Island Contest on June 5th at 6pm

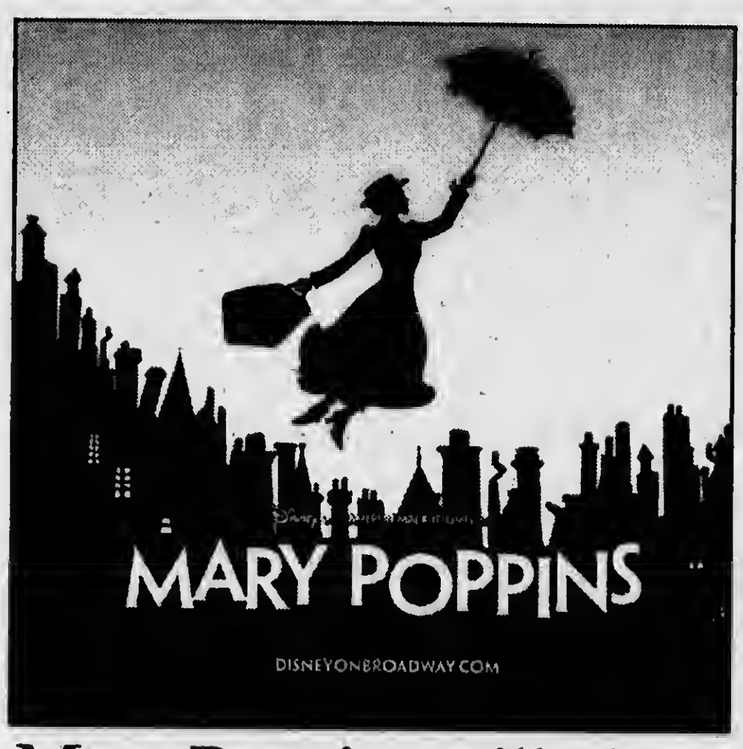
3. Blue Island Merchant Breakfast

All Merchants come to De Mars Restaurant, 12941 S. Western Ave. Monthly on the fourth Wednesday, until Dec 23, 2009.

4. Take advantage of the MEGA MANAGER'S SPECIAL at METRO SELF STORAGE on 135th and Western Ave. 10x25 storage units are only $129.99 per month for a limited time!

Don't need that much space? Then take advantage of our 50% OFF THE FIRST 3 MONTHS SPECIAL on one of our large selection of other sizes.

Call Miguel at (708) 293-1900 for more details.



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Valley Learning Center at Moraine Valley Community College offer hands on learning for 4 years and older

Valley Learning Center at Moraine Valley a win-win for kids and parents The Valley Learning Center at Moraine Valley Community College is the perfect place for kids ages 4 and up to have safe fun while exploring their educational and personal interests during the summer break from school.

A wide range of hands-on classes and workshops are taught by state-certified instructors who do not give homework or grades. Sessions are generally four, six, or eight weeks and start at different times throughout the summer. Some classes require textbooks, which can be purchased in the Moraine Valley Bookstore in Building D. The cost of each workshop varies. In addition to the usual math, science, writing, career exploration, personal interest, and eFun Academy classes, the Valley Learning Center has several new offerings this summer. History classes are being offered for the first time, including Abraham Lincoln, Chicago History, Military History, and Native American Culture, where students will build model Indian villages and totems.

Students also can enroll in Native American Arts and Crafts for more on using authentic designs, beading, lacing, and macramé to create dream catchers, earrings, belts and more. Children can master super shortcut techniques involving addition, subtraction, fractions, squaring and multiplication in Speed Arithmetic or take Beginner Fractions to help end their struggle with fractions. Science lovers will "gush" over Volcanoes and Earthquakes, which offers eye-witness accounts of historic eruptions and quakes.

Beginning French speakers can take their skills to the next level with French for Middle/High Schoolers, a refresher course that also will discuss the French culture. Students in fourth and fifth grades can step into a world of fantasy in Folk and Fairy Tales, where they will take the journey from "Once Upon a Time" to "Happily Ever After" by creating art, learning about characters and exploring role playing.

Several new Lego robot computer classes are being offered for children ages 9-13, including Race Day: Pit Stop Experience, Galaxy Battle, and Medieval Quest: Knights, Castles, -more- and Dragons. Other options include Robo Doctor: Operating Room Practice, Amazon: Save the Rainforest, Dinosaur Safari Park , Secret Agent: Clue Investigator, Eureka ! Young Inventor, Polar Exploration: Ice Adventure, and Arr! Pirate Island . Registration for Valley Learning Center classes is underway.

Students can register in person at the Admissions, Records and Registration Office, located in Building S on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy. , Palos Hills , or by calling (708) 974-2110 (TT/TDD for the hearing impaired 708-974-9556).

Previously enrolled students can register online at morainevalley.edu.

For more information on the Valley Learning Center offerings or other noncredit courses at Moraine Valley , visit morainevalley.edu/wdcs or call Workforce Development and Community Services at (708) 974-5735

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

Your Suburban Newspaper for 35 years

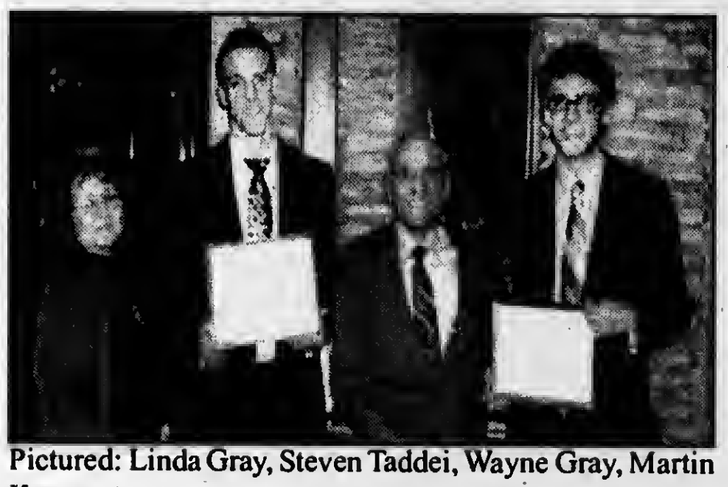
WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 35 Number 23

June 16, 2009



Pictured: Linda Gray, Steven Taddei, Wayne Gray, Martin Kezon.

The annual Wayne Gray grant award

The Wayne R. Gray Educational Grant Committee has selected two recipients for the 2009- 2010 school year. The Grant was established honoring Mr. Gray for his years of service to the Indian Programs by the YMCA Network (formerly Southwest YMCA) Council of Chiefs.

This year, Steven Taddei, who resides in Burbank , will be attending Columbia College to pursue studies in computer programming and eventually becoming an instructor and inspire students to continue a balanced career path. The other individual selected this year is Martin Kezon, who resides in Chicago , and will attend Knox College to pursue studies in neuroscience, particularly the mechanics of brain functions. Both Steven and Martin were chosen as recipients for their scholastic achievements, service to the YMCA, and volunteer work for their communities and church activities.

A Committee was established to develop the criteria for the Grant, administer and evaluate the applications from qualified members of the Y Adventure Guides (formerly Y Indian Guides). Members of the Committee are Wayne Gray; Lynn Gray, former Children's Pastor; Audra Gray, Adjunct Professor at Trinity College and Lorelle Cutforth, retired Assistant Superintendent of Schools, District 123 in Oak Lawn .

The Grant is available to all members of the YMCA Network Y Adventure Guides, past and current, who wish to pursue studies at institutions of higher education and can fulfill the established criteria.

Swing'n Sugar Squares Square Dance Club

Summer square dance workshop for experienced square dancers started Thursday, June 4th at the Evergreen Park Community Center, 3450 West 97th St.

The workshop continues every Thursday in June, July and August (except July 2) from 7:30 to 9:30 PM in the air-conditioned auditorium. Caller is Rick Allison. For couples or singles. Casual wear. Fee $5.00 each. Call Evergreen Park Recreation Dept. 708-229-3373 for more information.

Note also that Basic Square Dance Lessons for beginners start Tuesday, Sept. 22 with two free lessons at Central Junior High School, 94th and Spaulding, Evergreen Park.

Grand Raffle for Park Lawn

Local non profit, Park Lawn, to hold Annual Grand Raffle with the winner to receive a choice of $15,000 cash, or a 2009 Harley Davidson FXDL Dyna Low Rider, or a 2009 Chevrolet Malibu, or a Honda ARX15T38 Watercraft with a trailer (or equivalent).

The second prize is $5,000.00, third prize is $3,000.00, fourth prize is $1,000.00, fifth prize is $500.00, sixth prize is $300.00 and the seventh through tenth winners will take home $200.00 each.

Park Lawn's Grand Raffle tickets cost $100 each, which also includes a buffet/beer/wine reception. Additional reception tickets are available for $20.00 each.

For the first time ever, Park Lawn is offering a Bonus Raffle to everyone who purchases a $100.00 Grand Raffle ticket. For an additional $20.00, the Bonus Raffle provides the chance to win a one week condo vacation where some restrictions apply.

Grand Raffle drawing and reception will be held on July 30th, 2009 , at Park LawnSchool,10833LaPorte in Oak Lawn . Only 900 tickets will be sold.

Park Lawn Raffle Coordinator Laurie Leiser explains that while tickets are still available, they are selling quickly.

Tickets and more info rmation are available at www.parklawn.com, or call 708-425-6867, or visit Park Lawn located at 10833 S. LaPorte in Oak Lawn . The sponsors of this year's Grand Raffle are Gillespie Auto Group, Oak Lawn Harley-Davidson and Chicago Sports and Cycle.

The proceeds from Park Lawn's Grand Raffle will benefit the programs and services provided to hundreds of individuals with developmental disabilities. Park Lawn's mission is to provide services that promote independence, choice and access to community living for people with developmental disabilities.

An American Celebration featuring "Reminiscing with Larry" Nostalgia Seminar

The Louis S. Viverito Senior Center located at 7745 S. Leamington; Burbank will be hosting a luncheon on Thursday, July 2, 2009 to celebrate Independence Day. Join us to salute America with Reminiscing with Larry. Established public speaker, Larry Bergnach, offers fun and humorous seminars for a variety of groups that focus on remembering the "good old days." The party begins at 9:15 A.M. with bingo and Lunch will be served at 11:30 A.M. To register for the party please call (708) 636-8850. Registration is required

Evergreen Park approves bonds

A public meeting preceded the June 1 Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting regarding the issuance of aggregate principal bonds for an amount not to exceed $5,000,00 for Brother Rice High School, Inc, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation. The bonds will be loaned to the school and are slated to be used for construction and improvement of the educational facilities as well as parking. Village Attorney Cainkar stated that this issue had been discussed at a prior board meeting and the bonds are not an obligation of the village. They are the sole responsibility of the school. The village is merely a conduit to issue the bonds at a tax-exempt rate, and the purpose of this meeting is to finalize which bank to borrow the money from. There were no questions or any written comments sent regarding this issue. Therefore the public portion of the hearing was closed.

The board meeting commenced with a moment of silence for Pastor Emeritus Father Murphy, who passed away recently and had served at Queen of Martyrs parish for well over thirty years.

Mayor James Sexton made the following announcements: The Farmers Market is open and will run until Oct 29. The South Division Credit Union is sponsoring a shred day at the June 25 Farmers Market - residents may bring documents in for shredding. The 41st Annual Independence Day Parade will be held on Thursday July 2 at 6:30 p.m. Fireworks will take place at dusk at Duffy Park, 92nd and Millard. Vehicle stickers must be purchased by June 30 - after July 1 there will be a late fee penalty of 100 percent.

A request from Bleekers Bowl to erect a temporary tent on their property on June 2 was approved as well as a request from the First United Methodist Church to close 94th Street between Trumbull and Homan on June 21 to hold a Fathers Day Car Show from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hometown Murray VFW is having a steak fry

Hometown-Murray VFW is having a Steak Fry, Saturday, June 27th. 4pm till 8pm at the post home, 9092 Main St., Hometown , IL.

A' 'fresh' Butcher Cut' Steak, Baked Potato, Corn on the Cob, Garden Salad, Bread and Butter-Dessert Table. $10.00 per person.

Carry Outs Available- Call 708-636-5446

Visit our web site- www.hometownvfw9773.com

Meet the Elite- Join the All State Team- For more information visit our web site or call -708-636-5446- Female Veterans welcome!

Publisher's Pen

This column has several points of interest to me and I would like to share them this you.

If stress has entered into your life where you have no control over it, read this column about my own personal situation, which occurred many years ago.

I remember the only time in my life that I was so stressed out was in 1982, after college when I was unable to find work the field of mass media. The stress I was feeling was because I was unable to find work, not only in mass media but I was looking for work from anyone who was hiring.

No matter what I did or where I applied for a job, I would become number two and even be interviewed several times with certain companies. I got so bad that my husband even set up an interview with a trucking company for me. I remember the interviewer saying to me, your husband said you can type. Ok, here's the typewriter and the copy I want you to type. Oh, by the way you have to type 70 words per minute. Can you do this? I was confident I could.

Well I was not use to the old typewriter and he didn't let me practise. In fact, I typed over 70 WPM, but that particular day, after deducting for errors, I typed 58 WPM. Sorry, we can't use you, he said.

I began to really feel depressed after that interview. After six months of this, I couldn't believe it was happening to me. In this case, I didn't have a work history, but now I couldn't understand why I wasn't employable. I remember to this day sitting and staring at the walls.My husband looked at me and I knew he was scared of what he saw in me."Hey," he said, "snap out of this". I started crying, I'm depressed. He said, "I'm an expert on depression and you are depressed. The only way you can get out of this depresson is to keep moving.! Force yourself to do something." I looked at him and remember thinking, is he insane. How can I move when I'm glued to this chair and my eyes affixed to the wall.

If you believe in miracles, they can happen. I didn't believe. Within a week the phone rang, the call was from a former boss from 1964 who called me to ak me if I wanted a job. I was so happy someone wanted me to work for the them, I accepted the job.

The problem with human nature is that we forget the pain when the healing takes place. I continued working for him long after purchasing the Village View Newspaper.

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Owner/Editor/Publisher Annette Dixon
Published on the first and third Tuesday of every month. Press releases and ads are to be e-mailed to vvnew@sbcglobal.net

We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

10th Annual Memorial Day Celebration at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. Rosemary Santore, Director welcomed all on a memorable day. Many dignataries were honored the past and present military and their families. Senator Rollin Burris, Senator Debbie Halvorson, Floyd Garrett, a volunteer was present for the 9 previous events. Al Gracek, deceased, was very active in the opening of Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery and worked with congress to enact upon this venture.

We must remember many men and women from the south side who have been buried in this cemetery. I am sure that in the future, many volunteers will be needed to carry on with memorials such as those in the past. I didn't see the south side organizations such as VFW, American Legion, POW represent our south suburbs. Don't forget each day hundreds of WW II vets, who have kept the spirit alive through many military organizations, are dieing.

The troops returning home from Iraq who have served 4 terms, were also there. We have to thank our two Senators mentioned in this article for the $113 Million Dollars for the Department of Veteran Affairs. Veterans will not be short changed.

It was also mentioned that since October 3, 1999 more than 19,000 veterans and wives are buried in Abraham Lincoln Cemetery. They are not only remembered on Memorial Day, but the bells toll for them each and every day.

In celebrating Village View Newspaper on our 36th year at the end of June, we would like to thank all of our customers for making this a successful, memorable one. Call in your ad and we will give you a 36% discount. This offer applies only for the month of July.

We also would like to mention our longest loyal customer, Southwest Denture Center for being our customer for 33 years. Call Paul Lausch and thank him for his support in contributing in your readership.

Mary Poppins at the Cadillac Palace

The performance of Mary Poppins at the Cadillac Palace Theatre was a delight for an all age audience. My two grandchildren, age 13 and 14, both genders, thoroughly enjoyed the play. Their comment was "it was better than the movie because of the actions of the actors."

My opinion was that the production of Mary Poppins was casted well and Gail Bennett was so professional. We loved Gavin Lee, Michael Gerhart, and Jesse Swimm. Of course all the actors worked together in order to make this a great production. The sound effects, stage design, props, musical adaptations, orchestra, singing all played a significant role in perfecting this outstanding national production.

Mary Poppins can still be seen until July 12th. Tickets can be purchased at Hot Tics, Ticketmaster, box office of Cadillac Theatre or by calling 312-902-1400.

Military News

Army Pfc. Mustafa M. Maadi has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

He is the son of Hana Maadi of Highway 66, Gallup, N.M., and Mohammed Maadi of Del Prado St., Palos Hills, Ill. Maadi is a 2003 graduate of Gallup High School, and earned an associate's degree in 2006 from Apollo College, Albuquerque, N.M.

Military News

Marine Private Nicholas W. Coluzzi graduated from Marine basic training in San Diego , California on May 22, 2009. During 13 weeks of basic training he received training in military courtesy, martial arts, confidence courses, field training swimming skills, rifle range proficiency, map reading and team building skills, self defense instruction, military drill, military history, first aid, land navigation and instruction. Training was completed with Private Coluzzi passing of the 54 hour crucible course. Private Coluzzi earned proficiency on the range and was awarded the Sharp Shooter Metal. He was also awarded the National Defense Ribbon.

Private Coluzzi will receive continuing advanced training at Camp Pendleton in California . The month long training consists of participation in combat scenarios, heavy weapons training, and advanced training in team building.

Nicholas, is the son of Richard and Jackie Coluzzi of Chicago Ridge, IL. They are members of the Glenn Maker Post #1160 in Chicago Ridge. Nicholas graduated from Richards High School in 2008, where he participated in baseball and received the honor of graduating with perfect attendance over the four years as a student.
Semper Fi

Army Pvt. Krystal M. Darge has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

She is the daughter of Anthony Darge of Albany St., Chicago, Ill., and Gwen Walton of Ayers St., Midlothian, Ill. Darge is a 2007 graduate of Bremen High School, Midlothian.

Army Reserve Pvt. Marco A. Gonzalez graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. He is the brother of Carlos Gonzalez of Irving Ave., Blue Island, Ill.

Gonzalez graduated in 1997 from Brother Rice High School, Chicago, Ill.

Army Spec. Jeffrey M. Ende graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

He is the son of Ralph Ende of Clifton Park Ave., Midlothian, Ill., and grandson of Jaqueline Adomovicz of Olympic Drive, Bridgeview, Ill. Ende graduated in the year 2000 from Bremen High School, Midlothian, and received a bachelor's degree in 2005 from the Illinois Institute of Art, Schaumburg.

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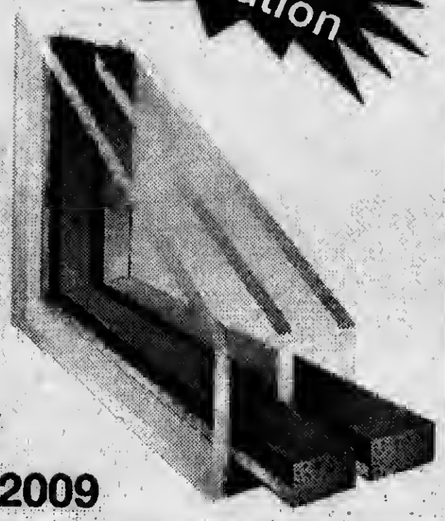

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OLCHS Senior and Relay for Life Committee Co-Chairperson Jack Kapala addresses the crowd during the opening ceremony. The event raised over $83,000.00 for the American Cancer Society.

OLCHS Raises $83,000 for Relay for Life

OLCHS held its annual Relay for Life fundraiser on Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17. Exactly 550 Oak Lawn and Reavis students, faculty, and parents participated in this year's event, raising a record amount of $83,000. Mrs. Jennifer Wargin, along with many dedicated faculty and staff members, organizes this event each spring. The purpose of Relay for Life is to raise funds to fight cancer and raise awareness of cancer prevention and treatment. Loved ones who lost their lives to cancer are celebrated at the event, and survivors are honored during the opening ceremonies.

Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's signature activity. It offers everyone in a community an opportunity to participate in the fight against cancer. Teams of OLCHS and Reavis students camped out on the school grounds and took turns walking or running around the track. Each team had a representative on the track at all times during the event. The Relay was an overnight event and lasted 24 hours.

Shop and share to assist veterans, June 29 and July 1

The Evergreen Park American Legion Auxiliary, Post 854 will hold a Shop and Share program on June 29, June 30, and July 1, 2009 at all Jewel-Osco Stores.

By shopping at Jewel-Osco on one of these days, 5% of total purchases, excluding tax, will be donated by Jewel-Osco and used by the Auxiliary to assist veterans and their families. Anyone interested in helping the American Legion Auxiliary by shopping at Jewel-Osco on these days will need a "Shop & Share Identification Slip."

Slips will be avail-able after June 22 at the Legion Post bar at 9701 S. Kedzie in Evergreen Park , or leave a message by calling 708-422-9513, and slips will be delivered to you.

Please help our veterans through the Shop and Share program.

Free Movie: Happy Feet

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will host a screening of the 2006 Oscar winning film for Best Animated Feature "Happy Feet" from 12-2 p.m. on Friday, June 26. A toe-tapping story of a penguin whose love of dance saves his colony. Winner of the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature. Rated: PG. Running time: 109 min. No advance registration is required to watch the movie. Lower level meeting room. This is one of five family films featured in the library's annual summer reading program.

###

Free Gingarte Capoeira Performance (http://gingartecapoeira.org)

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will host a free performance by Gingarte Capoeira on Wednesday, July 1 from 7-8 p.m. Patrons of all ages are invited to view a demonstration of this innovative performance art that combines elements of fighting with dancing, singing and musical instruments. Audience members will participate throughout the performance with call and response songs in Portuguese and with simple dance movements. Lower level meeting room. For more information about this and other summer reading activities, call 708-422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

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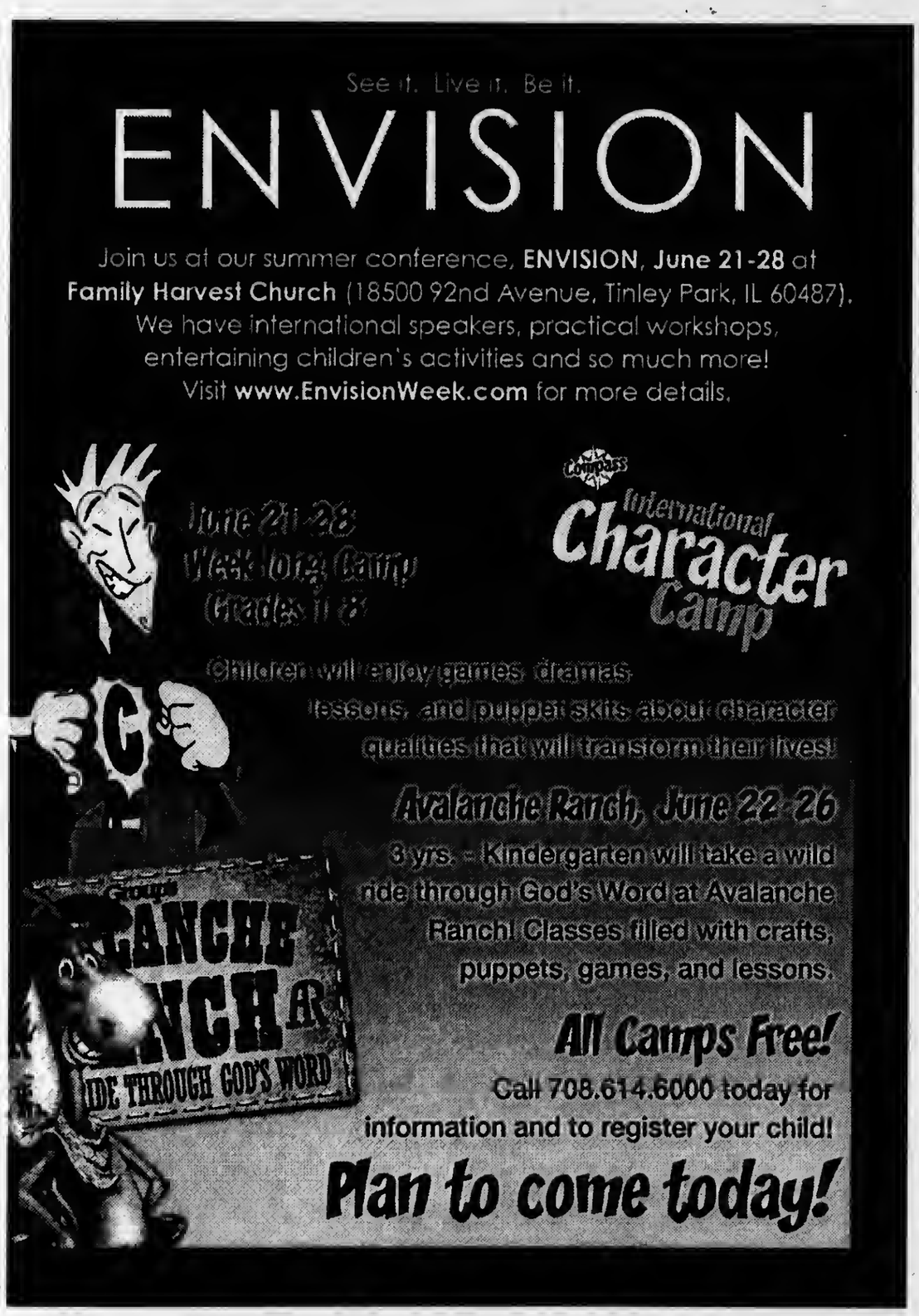

Garden Club of Oak Lawn holds walk

The Oak Lawn Garden Club will hold its annual Garden Walk from to 5 PM Sunday,June 28th. The walk will feature a self-guided tour of five local gardens.The cost is $8.00 for adults and free for children age 12 and younger. Tickets are sold at Millie's Icc Cream Shoppe 5172 W. 95th Street Oak Lawn,Or at the Village Green Gazebo, 95th Street and Cook Avenue, Oak Lawn on Sunday June 28th. Information Marci Stritch 708-363-2371

NASA Astronaut John Grunsfeld will speak about his recent mission

Hear NASA Astronaut and Chicago Native John Grunsfeld speak about his recent mission to repair Hubble on Tuesday, June 23, less than a month from his Space Shuttle Atlantis landing. T

The Museum of Science and Industry will welcome Chicago native and NASA astronaut John Grunsfeld back to Chicago to present details of his mission to Museum guests.

A native of Highland Park, IL, Dr. Grunsfeld is now the veteran of five space flights, and has logged almost 60 days in space. He will lead a fascinating presentation about his recent mission from 1:15 -2 p.m. on June 23.

Dr. Grunsfeld will discuss and showcase his recent 13-day trip to the International Space Station for the final servicing mission for the Hubble Space Telescope. The mission included five grueling space walks to repair and upgrade the telescope, which extended the observatory's capabilities into the next decade.

Following the formal presentation, guests will be able to ask questions and also have the opportunity to meet Dr. Grunsfeld and get his autograph.

Reserved tickets for this event are required. Tickets to the lecture are included in general admission, which is $13 for adults, $12 for seniors and $9 for children 3-1. Tuesday, June 23. Public presentation from 1:15-2 p.m. at the Museum of Science and Industry. Space is limited.

Those interested in attending must have a reservation. To reserve a ticket to presentation, which is included in general admission to the Museum, call (773) 684-1414.

Evergreen Park Recreation Department free summer series has new dates

Come experience Ravinia in Evergreen Park. Pack up your family, friends, a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy a FREE Musical Experience. Mark your calendars for Evergreen Park's Free entertainment series! All concerts performances are located at Klein Park at 97th & Homan in Evergreen Park.

NEW DATES

Brother Rice/Mother McAuley/St. Laurence/ Queen of Peace Concert Band Concert Band made up of talented teens is an energetic group with a fantastic sound. Sunday, June 21st , 2009· Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

ONCORE Band Enjoy an evening in the park listening to your favorite patriotic songs! Sunday, June 28th, 2009· Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

In case of inclement weather, please call the Recreation department, 708-229-3373.

World's tallest scarecrow stiltwalker will be at the Palos Heights farmer's market

Jason Kollum will be entertaining as the World's Tallest Scarecrow Stilt-Walker as part of the Palos Heights Farmer's Market on Wednesday, June 17th from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. In addition, he'll be providing a high-energy variety juggling performance with comedy, juggling and balancing stunts, and lots of audience partic-ipa-tion. Fun for the whole family!"

Want to save money

Looking for ways to save money during these hard times? Well, the Bridgeview Public Library is here to help you!

Super Couponing with Jill Cataldo will show you how you how to maximize your grocery saving and purchase hundreds of dollars worth of groceries for just pennies. As seen on ABC 7 News, CBS Early Show, on the Radio with Jonathon Brandmeier of The Loop, Super Couponing with Jill Cataldo will take place on Saturday, June 20, starting at 2:00 p.m. Please call to register (708) 458-2880 ask for Margaret.

City hosts 1st Annual Arts and Crafts Fair and Classic Car Show

Oak Forest will host its 1st Annual Arts and Crafts Fair and Classic Car Show on Saturday, June 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, June 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Metra train station at 159th Street and Cicero Avenue. The two-day event will include a wide-variety of artists and crafters, more than 100 classic cars, local food vendors, and entertainment.

The event also will give residents and visitors a chance to check out Cicero Avenue, the city's flourishing commercial corridor. Relay for Lifeof Oak Forest is sponsoring the Sun. car show and donating 100 percent of the $20 car registration fee to the American Cancer Society. More than 50 teams are expected to participate in Relay for Life, which will take place Sat. June 26 at the Oak Forest Park Dist. 15601 S. Central.

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12701 S. Pulaski, Alsip (708) 239-8740
Hours: Monday-Sunday. 6am to 4pm

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Come Celebrate the Culture, Heritage & Traditions of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden at beautiful 25-acre Vasa Park, Route 31 in South Elgin, Illinois located along the Fox River.

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VASA PARK

Saturday, June 27: Fourth Annual Scandinavian Midsammar Celebration, 2 p.m. to Sunset, Adults $5.00, Children 12 & Under FREE
Saturday, August 8: Steak Fry with Crayfish Sampling
Sunday, September 13: The 30th Annual Scandinavian Day Festival, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Adults $10.00, Children 12 & Under FREE * FREE PARKING * Rain or Shine * Look for the Scandinavian flags
Saturday, October 17: 9th Annual Fish Bail/Harvest Festival

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Burbank Park District
Independence Day Celebration

Fireworks Display - Carnival Games
Horseshoe Tournament - Pie Eating Contest
Bingo - Food Vendors - Beer Garden
Bag Tournament - Inflatable Rides
Petting Zoo - Animal Rides - Face Painting
Trackless Train - Disc Jockey

Saturday, June 27th
4:30 - 10:00 p.m.
Fireworks - 9:30 p.m.

Michael Looney Park
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Burbank, Illinois

If you need additional information, call the Burbank Park District at 708-599-2070
www.burbankparkdistrict.org

21st Annual Day in the Park

SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH

FEST TIMES: 11:30AM –9:00 PM

5K RUN: REGISTRATION 7:30AM; RUN STARTS 8:30AM

16TH ANNUAL "DAY IN THE PARK" 5K RUN

This 5K race begins and ends at Klein Park. The course winds throughout the neighborhood of Evergreen Park. Runners and walkers of all ages are welcome.

TIME: 7:30 am to 8:15 am registration; 8:30 am 5K Run begins

DAY IN THE PARK FEST SCHEDULE
AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER
3450 W 97TH STREET

11:00 am–1:00 pm	State Treasurer Alexi Giannououlias Dash for Cash
11:30 am–9:00 pm	Food Vendors and a Beer/Wine Garden
12:00 pm–3:00 pm	Art Fair (Auditorium) Jumping Activity Center for children
12:00 pm–3:00 pm	Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart Safety town for children 5—8 yrs. old
12:00 pm–9:00 pm	Arts and Crafts Displays (located in front of the building)
1:00 pm–9:00 pm	Music and Entertainment
1:00 pm–5:00 pm	Face Painting
5:00 pm–6:00 pm	Mr. D's Magic Show
6:00 pm–8:00 pm	***Live Entertainment -*** Katie Sullivan Band (Celtic Rock Jam Band)
6:00 pm–8:00 pm	Caricatures

ALL EVENTS AND TIMES ARE TENTATIVE.

Don't forget to join us at the 41st Annual Independence Day Parade
Thursday July 3rd 6:30 pm followed by FIREWORKS at Duffy Park 92nd and Millard

Have a Safe and Happy Summer
Mayor, James Sexton
Clerk, Cathy Aparo
Trustees: J. Bosch, C. Kyle, M. Marzullo, J. McQuillan, M. Phelan, N. Smith

St. Gerald Historical Committee seeks volunteers artifacts

The St. Gerald Historical Committee is seeking volunteers to help with the compilation of a book commemorating the 75th anniversary of the parish, particularly those who have information, photographs or memorabilia relating to St. Gerald from the period ranging between 1984-2009.

The committee will meet on at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 29 in room 121 of St. Gerald School, 9320 S. 55th Court, Oak Lawn, IL 60453.

Anyone who is interested and has ties to St. Gerald is encouraged to attend.

For more information, please contact co-chairs Marge Murray at 708-646-7851 or John Gonczy at 708-307-9550.

Sister of Mercy Wins Award for Outstanding Service

Sister Cathleen Cahill Receives 2009 Archdiocese of Chicago Award

Sister Cathleen Cahill, R.S.M., administrative director of the Pastoral Ministry Institute of Saint Xavier University, recently received an Archdiocese of Chicago award for her outstanding service in support of lay ministry education and formation in the local Church of Chicago.

The "Now Only Dawn" award is given annually by the Archdiocesan Office for Lay Ministry Formation. It honors those who have distinguished themselves by carrying forth the vision of human efforts toward the fulfillment of God's superior and inscrutable designs announced by Pope John XXIII as he opened the Second Vatican Council in 1962.

Among other qualities cited in the award presentation, Cahill was identified for "her keen intellect, wisdom, invaluable ministerial experience, gentleness, compassion and passion for empowering laity, which has characterized and distinguished her service over the decades within the Archdiocese of Chicago and through her position in the Pastoral Ministry Institute of Saint Xavier.

Cahill assisted in creating the Vicariate V Ministry Commission, a vital organization that fosters the preparation and ongoing formation for lay ministers in the Catholic faith communities surrounding Saint Xavier. She has been directly and consistently involved in advancing the ecclesial mission of the University through her work on the ministry certification committees of various Archdiocesan offices that certify and commission parish-based Catechists, Directors of Religious Education, Youth Ministers, Ministers of Care and Pastoral Associates.

"As a Sister of Mercy and Archdiocesan religious leader, Sister Cathleen Cahill has demonstrated extraordinary gifts and heroic commitment to those laity who would render service to Christ and his Church," said Graziano Marcheschi, director of the Archdiocesan Lay Ministry Programs.

The Oak Lawn Garden Club announces the winners

The Oak Lawn Garden Club would like to thank and congratulate all who participated in the Beautiful Yard Contest which took place on June 1,2009
The first place winner is Sally and Daniel Lopez 9009 S 50th Ave. Oak Lawn
The second place winner is Diane and Donald Roth 9108 · S. Lynwood Ave. Oak Lawn
The third place winner is Bernie and Mary Steinmann 4613 W. 105th Street Oak Lawn.

YMCA Father & Daughter Y-Princess Program

Dads, are you looking to spend more time with your daughters? Do you think that they are growing up to fas: Well then, don't miss out on the time you have now and join the YMCA Father & Daughter Y-Princess Program. Father and Daughter YMCA Adventure Princess Program is a way to foster and build the understanding and companionship between fathers and daughters. Since the Y-Princess Guide program began in 1926, it has helped thousands of children and parents build strong relationships. The program was developed to support parent's vital role as teacher, counselor, and friend to their children. Our Southwest chapter of this organization encompasses families from Alsip, Beverly, Blue Island, Burbank, Crestwood, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Morgan Park, Mount Greenwood and Oak Lawn.

Events and outings include: Bike 'n Hike, Pumpkin Hunt, and Theatre show, Roller Skating Party, Christmas Party, Father & Daughter Dance, Bowling, Kite Flying and, a three day / two night camping trip (Friday to Sunday), at the YMCA Camp Tecumseh in Brookston, IN. Plus, each month, your individual groups (tribes) should meet for some kind of arts and crafts and to spend quality time together!

The Father and Daughter YMCA Adventure Princess Program organization grows stronger each year, and with your help we can still provide quality events and outings for our daughters.

For more information and registration contact, please visit our website: www.blackhawkprincess.com

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3RD ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CYCLING CLASSIC
Saturday, July 11th
The route will be Oak Street & Western Avenue to Vermont Street west to Greenwood Avenue then north at Oak Street east to Western

BLUE ISLAND 4TH OF JULY PARADE
SATURDAY, JULY, 4TH
Starting at 11:30 am
On Western Avenue between 123rd St. and Vermont

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Saturday, June 27, 2009
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10:00 am – 4:00 pm Admission $3.00
Special Guest at Noon :
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Amazing Animals by Samantha is a traveling zoo offering entertaining, educational programs on native wildlife and exotic animals from around the world. Some animals have been featured in movies, television, and advertising. Join us to see a binturong (Bear-cat), African serval, kinkajou, coatimundi (picks pockets), raccoon (plays basketball), chinchilla, duck (plays drums), Burmese python, bearded dragon, red footed tortoise, legless lizard, and a tarantula! (www.amazinganimals.biz)

Parking with shuttle bus service to the ranch at Walmart 16241 Farrell Rd, SE corner of lot Food, Drinks, Gift Shop, Raffles, Music and More!

Big Run Wolf Ranch is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, federally licensed, wildlife education facility featuring rescued North American wildlife. Come see "Kuma" the bear, our 11 wolves, cougar "Charlie", lynx, skunk, groundhog, llama, horses, peacock, and many other wild and domestic animals. Come enjoy up close and personal wildlife lectures going on continuously throughout the day along with guided and unguided tours of our facility.

14857 Farrell Road www.bigrunwolfranch.org
Lockport , IL 60441 Email: bigrunwolf@aol.com
(815) 588-0044Directions: www.expedia.com or www.mapquest.com

McAuley seniors Michelle Provenzano of Scottsdale, Niki Annes and Kelly Ciurej of Beverly, Lauren Martinkus of Mt. Greenwood and Alyssa Burnett of Gage Park recently exhibited their work at the Oak Lawn Community Library. The exhibit showcased more than 70 student pieces created for the "Connections: Energy, Visual Arts and Our Environment," project funded through the BP A+ for Energy Program. Students in Studio Art classes worked with the Environmental Science students to create visual art pieces directly related to the study of energy.

McAuley students showcase energy art

The students in Mother McAuley's Art Program had a chance to show off their work at two recent student art exhibitions.

The first exhibition was held at the Oak Lawn Community Library and showcased the work of the Studio Art and Advanced Placement Art classes. The exhibit was the culminating work of the "Connections: Energy, Visual Arts and Our Environment," project lead by Art Department faculty member Kathy Gordon Davis and funded by a $10,000 grant from the BP A+ for Energy Program. Designed as an interdisciplinary project with the Science Department, students created visual art pieces directly related to the study of energy and alternative sources. The students concentrated their study on five sources of renewable energy: solar, wind, geothermal, tides and hydroelectric.

The second exhibition was held at Mother McAuley and featured student work from each subject area including graphic design, painting, sculpture and photography. There were more than 1,000 pieces of student work on display in a variety of mediums. The evening also included the induction of more than 70 students into McAuley's Chapter of the National Art Honor Society.

100 Year Anniversary

The Village of Oak Lawn will host a Summer Carnival as part of its 100 Year Anniversary Celebration. Thursday, June 18th, 5:00-11:00PM Friday, June 19th, 5:00-11:00PM, Satur-day, June 20th, Noon-11:00PM Sunday, June 21st, Noon-8:00PM

Carnival Mega Passes for unlimited rides during the entire celebration can be purchased for $50 each at the Main Ticket Booth during the Carnival. Oak Lawn Residents can purchase the Mega Pass at a pre-sale for a discounted price of $40 before June 19th.

Ticket Prices and Wristbands:

$1.00 Per Ticket – rides will require 2-4 tickets

Thursday & Friday: All Day Wrist Band - $20. Pre-sale - $15.Saturday & Sunday: All Day Wrist Band - $30. Presale - $25

Presale tickets (for Oak Lawn Residents Only) are on sale in the Mayor's Office between 8:30-5:00PM. Patrons with Special Disabilities can ride free of charge on Sunday, June 21st from Noon-2:00PM. All participants must have chaperone; stop by the main ticket booth to obtain a wristband.

Entertainment Schedule: Gazebo-Village Green Thursday at 7:30PM The Walk-Ins Friday at 5:30PM The Opinions Friday, at 7:30PM The Hat Guys, Saturday at 4:00PM The Bolts, Saturday at 7:30PM Yard Fulla Cars

Call 708.499.7742 for additional information.

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Million Dollar Quartet stars appear locally

by Marijo Doody

Local gal Kelly Lamont is the only female in Apollo Theatre's current running and recently extended to the end of August "Million Dollar Quartet" the famed recording session for 1956.

The stars Eddie Clendining (Elvis), Lance Guest (Johnny Cash), Levi Kreis (Jerry Lee Lewis) and Rob Lyons (Carl Perkins) with Chicago based actress Kelly Lamont are the stars. Recently they appeared in concert at Mellennium Park's Jay Pritzker Pavilion and sang the opening at White Sox U S Cellular Park.

In a conversation with Kelly at Pritzker Pavilion, the first thing she said was "please convey my congratulations to the Oak Lawn Park District Theatre for their twenty year anniversary; you know that is where I got my start."

In chatting with OLPDT persons, one gal indicated she communicates with Kelly regularly on My Space.com. She was eleven when she met Kelly. It was nice to hear that Kelly had not forgotten her roots. Her family still lives in Orland Park and she went to high school with my cousins.

Kelly is thrilled that the show "Million Dollar Quartet" has this extended run so she can be in the Chicago area. She remains a White Sox fan.

Tickets to Million Dollar Quartet at the Apollo Theatre are on sale through the box office 2540 N Lincoln Ave. 773-935-6100. Rush students are available for $20. Schedule is Wed 2, 7:30pm, Tues 7:30pm, Fri 8pm, Sat 5 and 8pm and sun at 2 and 5pm. It is a good show!

Chicago Shakespeare announce 2009-10 season

A season of love and ambition with charming villains and feuding lovers fill the stage. CST Artistic Director Barbara Gaines and Executive Director Criss Henderson announce the following productions for the new season. Subscription series includes "Richard III", "Private Lives" and "The taming of the Shrew." Tickets begin at $120 for series.

The World Stage Series includes "Ilioyopie"(French troupe creates waterborne theater wonders), Druid (an Irish premiere theatre company) presentation "The Walworth Farce" and commemorating the 150th anniversary Anton Checkhov birth "Uncle Vanya" presented by Maly Drama Theatre of St. Petersburg.

This summer CST creates a new production of Disney's "Aladdin" and "Short Shakespeare! The Comedy of Errors" in the children theatre programming.

For further information on all CST productions or to purchase tickets visit online at www.chicagoshakes.com. The theater box office number is 312-595-5600. CST is accessible to public transportation at Navy Pier.

Free Grant Park Musicals for enjoyable listening pleasure

June highlights include an appearance the World Premiere of Michael Torke's Plans for Orchestra and Chorus featuring vocalists Jonita Lattimore and Bryan Griffin (June 19 & 20); and a retrospective of American Music from the 1930's (June 26 & 27)

Award-winning violinist James Ehnes returns to Millennium Park to celebrate the Festival's 75th season in a program featuring Elgar's Enigma Variations, Walton's Violin Concerto and the Fantasia on Greensleeves by Vaughan Williams, June 17.

Certain to be one of the most exciting highlights of the season is the World Premiere performance of Michael Torke's Plans for Orchestra and Chorus, featuring soprano Jonita Lattimore and tenor Bryan Griffin, commissioned by the Grant Park Music Festival to serve as the opening event for the city-wide Burnham Plan Centennial celebration, June 19 & 20. Also on the bill will be Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 with pianist Jon Kimura Parker. Other June highlights include an authentic Mariachi from Mexico concert, June 24; the Orchestra's musical retrospective of various works from the Great Depression, at the Harris Theater, June 26 & 27; and a program of a cappella works by American composers including Corigliano, Copland and Barber with commentary by radio personality Bill McLaughlin, also at the Harris Theater, June 30 and July 2.

Grant Park Music Festival Gala 75th June Schedule: until June 30, 2009

* All concerts take place at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion unless otherwise noted *

FROM 1909: BURNHAM'S PLAN AND RACHMANINOFF'S 3rd – Friday, June 19, at 6:30 p.m. & Saturday, June 20, at 7:30pm

Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus; Carlos Kalmar, Conductor; Christopher Bell, Chorus Director; Jon Kimura Parker, Piano; Jonita Lattimore, Soprano; Bryan Griffin, Tenor

RACHMANINOFF Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Op. 30

MARIACHI FROM MEXICO – Wednesday, June 24, at 6:30 p.m.

Grant Park Orchestra; Carlos Kalmar, Conductor; Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlán

CHÁVEZ Chapultepec

GUIZAR/ Arr. Nevin Guadalajara

Selections from Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlán

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Selections from Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlán

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TRADITIONAL Cielito Lindo Huasteco

FUENTES/VARGA/ La Negra

Arr. Nevin

TRADITIONAL Popurri a Venezuel

AMERICAN MUSIC FROM THE 1930's – Friday, June 26, at 6:30 p.m. & Saturday, June 27, at 7:30 p.m.

*Harris Theater for Music and Danceconcerts. Membership and group sales information is available by calling 312-742-7638 or by visiting the Festival's website at www.grantparkmusicfestival.com.

About Grant Park Music Festival

Acclaimed by critics and beloved by audiences, the Grant Park Music Festival is the nation's only remaining free, municipally supported, outdoor summer classical music series of its kind. The Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park, located between Michigan and Columbus Avenues, at Washington Street, is the official home of the Grant Park Music Festival.

The Grant Park Music Festival is proudly presented by the Chicago Park District, the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and the Grant Park Orchestral Association. American Airlines as the Official Airline, The Fairmont Chicago as the Official Hotel, and The Boeing Company is the Lead Corporate Gala Sponsor.

Other season sponsors and foundations include: Commonwealth Edison Company, JPMorgan Chase, The Chicago Community Trust, Bank of America, Mexico Tourism Board, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts, The Illinois Arts Council, Alphawood Foundation, and Julius N. Frankel Foundation.

For more information regarding the Grant Park Music Festival's Gala 75th Season or any other questions, please call the Grant Park Music Festival at 312-742-7638 or visit the Festival's website at www.grantparkmusicfestival.com. Concert information is subject to change.

Topol in Fiddler on farewell tour

By Marijo Doody

What a treat it was to see the Broadway star Topol at 78 in his farewell tour staring the Academy Award winning play "Fiddler on the Roof" currently at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Oriental Theatre (24 W Randolph). He plays the role of Tevye.

Both were nominated for Academy Awards in their categories. He also won the 1972 Golden Globe. In 1990 the production was revived and he was nominated for a Tony Award for best performance in a revival as a leading actor.

This is a Broadway in Chicago feature that runs pretty much until June 28. It is well worth seeing this icon. Visit www.BroadwayinChicago.com.

Tickets range $25-$80 so one can call the ticket line at 312- and all Ticketmaster centers including HotTix. 902-1400, or on line at wwwticketmaster.com.

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LPGO 17th Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser

Please join the South West Special RecreationAssociation (SWSRA) for the 17th Annual L.P.G.O. (Let's Play Golf Outing) Fundraiser on Friday, July 10, at Glen Eagles Country Club in Lemont.

This fun event that includes an afternoon of golf with shotgun start at 3:00 p.m., dinner, awards and prizes, will help raise money for SWSRA activities.

Register early to guarantee tee times. The registration deadline is Monday, June 22. Please make checks payable to: LPGO, 16625 Spring View Drive, Lockport , IL. 60441.

If you are interested in registering, becoming a hole sponsor or a donor, please contact the SWSRA office for more details at (708) 389-9423.

SWSRA is a non-profit organization located in Alsip, Illinois that provides recreation opportunities for individuals with special needs.

Brookfield Zoo Plans Celebration for Milestone-75 Years of Wildlife Conservation and Leadership on July 1

Free Kids' Admission, Musical Performances, and Celebrations Honor Zoo's History

Brookfield, IL—Since opening its gates to the public on July 1, 1934, the Chicago Zoological Society's Brookfield Zoo has been a world-class leader in animal care, conservation, and education, inspiring millions of people to gain a greater appreciation for nature. To show its gratitude for more than seven decades of community support, the zoo is planning a year-long celebration that includes free admission for children ages 11 and under on June 29 and 30 and July 1, presented by Meijer. On Wednesday, July 1, there will be activities throughout the day to commemorate the zoo's 75th anniversary.

The zoo's July 1 anniversary bash will feature a special ceremony at 1:00 p.m. with comments from Strahl, who will share some of the many highlights from the zoo's rich history. Afterwards, guests can join staff in singing "Happy Birthday" to Brookfield Zoo and enjoy a piece of birthday cake courtesy of Meijer, also celebrating its 75th year. Meijer is also providing special treats for some of the animals.

Following the ceremony, the band Tributosaurus will entertain guests on the zoo's East Mall with a musical tribute to the decades. Also, there will be several performances throughout the day by members of the Chicago Cultural Alliance, a consortium of Chicago-area ethnic museums and cultural centers. And, guests can purchase 75 cent hot dogs, 24 ounce fountain cokes, and ice cream novelties at the zoo's restaurants on June 29 and 30 and July 1.

General zoo admission is $12 for adults and $8 for children 3-11 and seniors 65 and older. Children 2 and under are free. Parking is $8. Brookfield Zoo is owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and managed by the Chicago Zoological Society. Its mission is to inspire conservation leadership by connecting people with wildlife and nature. Open every day of the year, Brookfield Zoo is located off First Avenue between the Stevenson (I-55) and Eisenhower (I-290) expressways and is also accessible via the Tri-State Tollway (I-294), Metra commuter line, CTA, and PACE bus service. For further information, visit www.CZS.org.

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This event will be held at the Double Tree Hotel, 5000 W. 127th St., Alsip from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and has a general admission of $3. free to children 12 and under. This show will occur on Saturday, July 11th.

For more information call 773-585-6254

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Far South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 12

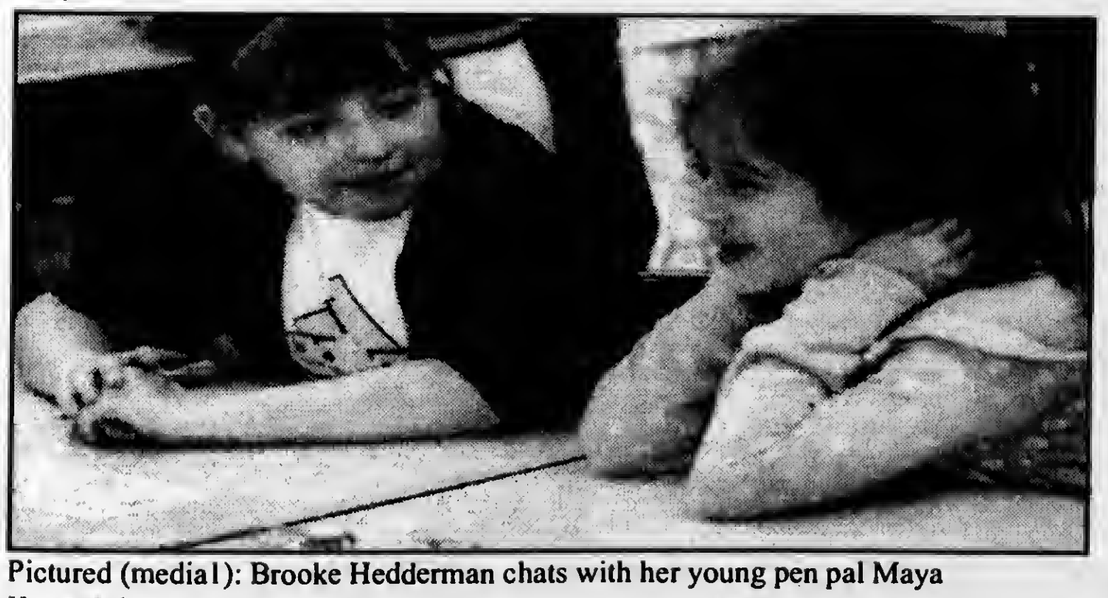
June 16, 2009

Cub Scout Pack 383 Honored By Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin

Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin presented appreciation awards to members of Orland Park Cub Scout Pack 383 at the June 1 Village Board meeting. The mayor thanked the scouts for cleaning parks throughout the community and for planting more than 100 Norwegian Spruce saplings at the village's Centennial Park.

At the same meeting, McLaughlin invited the Cub Scouts to serve as an honor guard for the three Eagle Scouts being recognized. The Cub Scouts are shown here lining the main aisle of the board room as Eagle Scout Kevin Germino approaches the dais to accept a Community Pride Award from the mayor.

Representatives from Joe Rizza Ford in Orland Park were honored by the mayor and board who thanked them for the dealership's support of community events, including hosting Cub Scout Pack 383's Pinewood Derby for the last two years. Accepting the awards on behalf of Rizza Ford were Liz Black, Phillip Rizza and General Manager Gary Precin.



Pictured (media1): Brooke Hedderman chats with her young pen pal Maya Kovacevic.

5th Graders Meet their 1st Grade Pen Pals

A classroom of High Point School fifth graders recently visited a classroom of Park School first graders on a surprise visit – the first face-to-face encounter the students had after a school year's worth of pen-pal letter writing. When the students from

Kimberly Vollan's class returned from music class, they were greeted by the smiling, eager faces of 10 and 11 year-olds from Heidi Doogan's class crammed on the room's small reading carpet. The students were introduced to their pen pal counterpart, and enjoyed time talking over sliced fruit. The pairs then enjoyed recess together, with the Park School students happily showing off their favorite swings and slides.

Two Thousand Nine marked the third anniversary of the project for Doogan and Vollan, who started the project to help both groups practice their writing, and to help facilitate a special friendship for the students.

Acorn Public Library Announces Adult Summer Reading Program

The Acorn Public Library will be the host of an Adult Summer Reading program in the coming months. This program gives community members the opportunity to win prizes by reading books checked out from the library. The library has been the host of similar programs in past years, all of which have been extremely successful. Sign-up for this program begins on Saturday June 13 and the last day to hand in lists of books read is Saturday August 15. There will also be a Summer Reading Pie Party on Thursday August 20.

For every five books read, patrons will receive one entry the library's drawings. As a prize for the first five books read, patrons will receive an Acorn Public Library tote bag (while supplies last). In addition, they will receive admission to the Summer Reading Pie Party. This party will feature a large variety of delicious pies from Chicago's famed Hoosier Mama Pie Company, as well as a raffle to give the program's grand prize (as well as some smaller prizes). The grand prize this year is an IPod Nano. Smaller, weekly drawings will award prizes such as books and Acorn Bucks (which are valid only for various services and fees at the Acorn Public Library).

Acorn Public Library is located at 15624 S. Central Avenue in Oak Forest. Interested individuals are invited to call (708) 687-3700 with any questions they might have. This program is offered free to the public.

Orland Township Health Services offers discounted vouchers which may be purchased. The resident then schedules an appointment with the selected doctor's office. Services are available to residents of all ages. For more information please contact Health Services at (708) 403-4222.

Orland Park cuts budget

The village board concurred with the recommendations of the boards finance committee to adjust the fiscal year 2009 revenue budget by $6,114,717 and reduce the expenditure budget by $2,646,422. The board also approved making nearly $2.7 million dollars in budget cuts to offset a projected revenue loss of some $5 million this fiscal year

Officials cite the down economy for the cuts. There is a reduction of $463,000 in development related fees as well as $3 million in state sales tax. There is a $354,000 reduction in state income tax and $1 million dollars in home rule sales tax, due to the village having home rule status. Officials said new development has also dropped some 40 percent due to the economic slow down.

Some of the slated costs reducing measures are: lower salary increases for village employees, cancellation of the purchase of computers and software, reduction of gasoline purchases by some $140,000. The purchase of maintenance and repair supplies will be cut by $73,000 as well as postponing the hiring for vacant positions, including the job of a recreational manager for a yearly salary of $132,000. Officials said the cuts are necessary to reduce expenditures in order to maintain a minimum fund balance of 20 percent of annual expenditures.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 12

June 16, 2009

Transitions Community Outreach

At the end of June, 2009, the Chicago Ridge Youth Service Bureau will close a long history of providing counseling, training, and outreach services to local young people, parents, and families. July 1st, will mark new beginnings for long-standing Director Hank Zwirkoski as he and local supporter launch Transitions Community Outreach as a 501c3 to take the place of the Chicago Ridge Youth Service Bureau.

This kind of change leaves you with a lot of mixed feelings, said Zwirkoski, who will leave his full-time YSB work under the auspices of the Village of Chicago Ridge at the end of the month. For me, all of my energy and effort went into this work ! I began here in 1976... after a year long effort spear-headed by then, newly elected, Mayor Eugene Siegel and a newly elected Village Board that included Thomas Cooper, Bill Herrington, Paul LaChance, George Ryniak, Charles Tokar, and Susan Zelis. That newly elected Village Board established a Youth Study Commission in 1975 and that group compiled data, conducted research and the recommended development of a permanent Youth Service Bureau to meet the needs of local young people, parents, and families. I came in after all that groundwork had been laid, Zwirkoski continued. My job was to implement their ideas... and that's exactly what I did.

A brief review of history helped me realize just how long people have benefited from the YSB services, ... and how much our culture has changed in the past 30 years, Zwirkoski added. In 1976, Venezuela was the chief supplier of foreign oil to the United States...North and South Vietnam officially reunited as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,... the United States celebrated its 200th birthday with festivities throughout the land,....Jimmy Carter won the presidential nomination on the first ballot at the Democratic National Convention in New York City and Senator Walter Mondale was selected as his running mate, ... President Ford narrowly defeated Ronald Reagan for the presidential nomination at the Republican National Convention in Kansas City and Senator Robert Dole was selected as his running mate, ... the Viking 2 spacecraft landed on Mars, ... the new television series " Charlies Angels" was a big hit,... Chairman Mao Tse-tung of the People's Republic of China, died,... Jimmy Carter was elected President of the United States with just over 50% of the popular vote, ... and Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley died of a heart attack at the age of 74.

At that time, I think the total Village budget was less then $3 million and the total allotted for the Police Department was under $500,000., Zwirkowski remembered,... and in 1976, the Village Hall offices were located at 107th & Oak with the Public Library tucked into a side section, the Police Department and Public Works were on Oxford at 105th, Bob Miller was the Fire Chief then, Jim O'Hare was Chief of Police, Bob Vanucci was our Juvenille Officer, and Jim Dolan directed the Park District programs. Our first YSB offices were set up at a storefront at 10619 South Ridgeland.... with Bud Jetter's "Drumstick Chicken" next door. I also remember that one of the first Chicago Ridge Festivals we participated in was an OctoberFest held in the open field right accross the street from our storefront on Ridgeland Ave.

Zwirkoski and his staff provided counseling, educational, and outreach services to hundreds of young people and families from that storefront location on Ridgeland for 13 years.... and then from three other different locations over the next 11 years.... before setting up operations in the lower level of the Siegal Municipal Complex when it opened in March of 2000. His experience as a professional counselor, community organizer, and as YSB Director has spanned nearly 40 years.... and he's not done yet ! Beginning July 1st, Zwirkoski has agreed to stay on as Executive Director of the newly formed nonprofit organization called Transitions Community Outreach located at 10432 South Oxford.

Last fall, when news about possible severe budget cuts to the YSB reached us, our first reactions were very negative, Zwirkoski said. Supporters began circulating petitions designed to convince the Village Board to keep us fully funded. After the economic realities set in, we began to intentionally pursue much different courses of action. Rather than trying to prod the Village Board to continue funding the YSB at previous levels, we sought to establish a new organization built on the strengths and experiences of the long-standing YSB,... hoping that we would have the chance to provide even greater opportunities for young people, parents, and families. I agreed to step down from my full-time employment at the Village effective June 30th of 2009, and soon after the 2009 Village budget was approved, we evaluated our position and went to work.

Beginning in January, we sought Village Board approval of continued use of the current YSB space in the Siegel Complex and support for a plan to rename and reorganize the YSB into a 501c3 nonprofit organization, Zwirkoski continued. With that board approval, we next sought the needed legal help through the Community Economic Development Law Project.... a resource uncovered by former YSB employee and friend Tom Klein. Our application was approved, we had a series of planning meetings, and our Articles of Incorporation were submitted to the IL Secretary of State's office... all within a 4 month period. Next we'll be filling with the IRS to seek full tax exempt status for Transitions Community Outreach.... really a remarkable chain of events and one we are all proud of, Zwirkowski concluded.

With all the news of foreclosures, high unemployment, difficulites in corporate America, and the bad news coming out of Springfield regarding budget woes.... it is refreshing to see a local youth and family agency rise above it. As Benjamin Franklin once said, energy and persistence conquer all things.

Transitions Community Outreach can be reached at 708-636-0888.

Vehicle stickers available at Palos Township

The 2009 Cook County vehicle stickers for residents of unincorporated Palos Township are available at the Township office, 10802 South Roberts Road, Palos Hills, now. All residents in unincorporated Cook County must purchase a vehicle sticker for every vehicle in their household, including those that are kept in a garage.

Seniors that have purchased a vehicle sticker in 2008, and have not purchased a new or used car do not need to purchase a new vehicle sticker. The current vehicle sticker is good as long as you own the car.

Stickers must be purchased by July 1, 2009. If residents purchase their stickers after July 1, 2009, they must pay a penalty which is double the sticker fee in most cases.

Clerk Jane Nolan is opening the Township office on Saturday, June 20, 2009, and on Saturday, June 27, 2009,both days from 10:00 a.m.to 12:00 p.m. { Noon]. This is the last Saturday before the July 1, 2009, deadline.

The office will also be open on Wednesday, July 1, 2009, until 7:00 p.m. for the final sticker sales before July 2, 2009.

The clerk's office is offering this option to make stickers available to those who are unable to purchase them during the regular Township office hours of 8:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

July 1st, is the last day to purchase stickers without the penalty !

The Chicago Ridge Park District is hosting several trips this summer

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL: The Longrove Strawberry Festival is Saturday, June 27th. Enjoy the shops, food vendors, and local restaurants in the historic district. Bus will leave Freedom Activity Center at 10:00 am, return approximately 5:00 pm. WHITE SOX: The trip to Cellular Field to see the White Sox take on the Tampa Bay Devil Rays is Tuesday, July 21st. Bus will leave Freedom Activity Center at 6:00 pm, and return approximately 11:00 pm.

AUTO RACNG: NASCAR fans will want to sign up for the trip to Chicagoland Speedway in Joliet on July 9th for Pole Day. This will include time trials, practice sessions, a manufacturer's midway, and live entertainment. Bus leaves Freedom Center at 5:00 pm, returns approximately 11:00 pm. For more information on these trips, please call 708-636-4900

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B-MAC EDITION

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 12

June 16, 2009

Alsip has new Fire Chief

Christopher Radz received the oath of office as Police Chief at the June 1 at the Alsip Board of Trustees meeting. Kevin Pickar received the oath of office as Deputy Fire Chief and firefighter Robert Ricker received the oath of office as Lieutenant to fill the vacancy due to Picker being promoted to Deputy Fire Chief.

The board approved an ordinance authorizing the vacation of a certain portion of 119th street to be used as school grounds by the Board of Education of Alsip, Hazelgreen and Oak Lawn Elementary School District 126 as well as an ordinance amending a chapter of the municipal code regarding licenses, permits and business regulations - an article regarding pool halls - billiard parlors and an section pertaining to restrictions was also approved.

A request from the park district to erect temporary tents at Aquatic Park at 11930 Kostner Avenue and conduct a fire works display as part of the Family Fun Fest on June 20 along with a waiver of associated fees was approved as well as a water department request to contract with Metropolitan Pump Company to replace the seal on one of six pumps at a cost not to exceed $10,000 and to waive the bidding process due to this being an emergency repair.

On June 6 the Alsip Park District hosted a ceremony for National Trails Day at Freedom Park. Mayor Pat Kitching said this was an important part of a project involving many towns to construct a bike path along the Cal Sag Canal from Calumet Park to Joliet and also connect the Alsip and Oak Lawn bike trails to the project.

Chamber president's award presented to Ondriska

Crestwood Chamber President, Anthony Killelea presented the "President's Award" to Donna Ondriska, Personal Chef and owner of Cookin' 4 U Personal Chef Service and Soaring Eagle Travel Services, at their June 9th Chamber of Commerce Meeting, held at the Hughes Restaurant in Crestwood. The President's Award noted "In Recognition of Contributions, Friendship and Loyal Support" for her involvement with the Chamber and the community during the past year.

Blue Island Community - Blue Island Public Library

Mudcats Jazz Band @ Library

The Mudcats will perform a special Pre-4th of July Show in the Library parking lot at 7:00 pm.

Bring Your Lawn chair and a Neighbor 7 enjoy the Show! If the Weather gets snarky, we'll move inside to Christ Memorial Church BUT THE SHOW WILL GO ON!

Cost: FREE

Contact Information:(Dan Carroll, 1-708-388-1078 x 30 Time and Place(6/30/2009 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Blue Island's Library 2433 York

U.S. Labor Department awards approximately $114 million in grants to help youth with education and training

9 Illinois-based YouthBuild organizations to share more than $5.9 million

Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis has announced the award of approximately $114 million to 183 community groups to provide education and training to young people across the United States . This amount is an initial increment for two years of grant operations. A remaining increment may be awarded pending the availability of additional funding. Among today's awardees, 62 are current Department of Labor YouthBuild grantees, and 121 are new to the department. The YouthBuild program assists out-of-school youth in obtaining their diplomas or GEDs while providing occupational training in the construction industry.

While acquiring leadership skills and participating in community service, at-risk youth build and renovate affordable housing within their communities. The awards include approximately $47 million allocated to the YouthBuild program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

"President Obama and I are delighted to be able to increase funding for this promising program, which does so much for youth and their communities," said Secretary Solis. "The YouthBuild program not only assists young people in obtaining education and skills, but also gives them a sense of accomplishment and empowers them as they give back to their communities."

The Labor Department also plans to initiate a rigorous randomized control trial evaluation of the YouthBuild program to learn more about its impact on the disadvantaged youth it serves.

Participants in YouthBuild programs include individuals who have been in the juvenile justice system, youth aging out of foster care, high school dropouts and others. In addition to receiving academic and occupational skills training, these young people develop leadership skills and participate in community service opportunities. Many YouthBuild participants are learning "green" building techniques, assisting with retrofitting existing homes, and discovering how to help make their communities sustainable and environmentally friendly.

Organizations chosen for YouthBuild funding include workforce investment boards, faith-based and community groups, and local and nonprofit housing development agencies. The YouthBuild program was transferred by Congress from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to the U.S. Department of Labor in 2006. This announcement brings to 228 the total number of YouthBuild projects funded by the department.

For more information on YouthBuild grants and other Department of Labor youth employment programs, visit http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services.

Luncheon award presentation

The March of Dimes Construction and Transportation Awards Luncheon was created in 1995 to honor leaders from the Greater Chicago area's construction and transportation industries for their professional and civic contributions to our community. The 2009 event sponsors at the Platinum and Gold levels were Ardmore Associates, LLC, Clark Construction Group, LLC, d'Escoto, Inc., Divane Brothers Electric Co., Lorig Construction Co. and Maron Electric Co.

Cherryl Thomas, President of Ardmore Associates, LLC and Fred d'Escoto, President of d'Escoto, Inc. both chaired the luncheon. They are pictured presenting Terrence O'Brien, Commissioner and President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, with the Construction Award.

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VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 36 Number 1 July 7, 2009

SXU to name new administrative center after Sr. Mary Denis O'Grady, R.S.M., Ph.D.

Sister of Mercy helped found Chicagoland's first criminal justice program

Saint Xavier University has announced it will name a new administrative center in honor of former faculty member Sister Mary Denis O'Grady, R.S.M., Ph.D.

Sister Denis served as a Saint Xavier faculty member for nearly 50 years in the Department of History and Political Science. She was a founder and director of the first Criminal Justice program in the Chicago area.

"This is a fitting tribute to Sister Denis, who exemplified our Catholic identity, mission and core values in dedicating her life to higher education," said Saint Xavier President Judith A. Dwyer, Ph.D.

Formerly a United Methodist Church building located at 11000 S. St. Louis Ave., the Sister Mary Denis O'Grady Center will house Saint Xavier's offices of advising, records and registration, student accounts and financial aid and the admission communication center.

Sister Denis was known for her untiring dedication to students and academic success, and prepared hundreds of students for careers in law, law enforcement and related careers.

The late Dr. Hassan Haddad, a colleague of Sister Denis, wrote the following commendation in 1984: "for her love of service to the college, for her dedication to the welfare of the students, for her concern with the graduates for years after they leave the college, for cementing emotional ties between graduates and their alma mater, and for selfless hard work on behalf of all..."

Born on March 21, 1915, Sister Denis entered the Sisters of Mercy on Sept. 8, 1937. Sister Denis was a 1937 graduate of Saint Xavier College . She earned her masters degree at Loyola University in 1946 and her Ph.D. at the University of Notre Dame in 1950. She died March 29, 2008 at the age of 93.

Editor Note: Annette Dixon was a student at St. Xavier College in 1979 and the first Mercy nun she met was Sister Denis. Sister not only introduced herself in the hallway, but at the chapel, the ministry, at the switchboard, in the theatre or anywhere you would you would run into her. She was everywhere, knew everyone and had a personal comment for everyone, so that you knew that she really knew you, and all about you. Annette was never a student in sister's class, but sister knew she joined theatre. How apropos the new administrative center will be named in her honor.

Summer concert on the Village Green

The Village of Oak Lawn and the Oak Lawn Park District are sponsoring a summer concert on Sunday, July 12, 2009. Retroactive will perform from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on the Village Green. The band, which plays classic rock, Motown, and disco features a great horn section and a female vocalist.

Performances are FREE and no reservations are required. Bring your own refreshments and don't forget your blankets or lawn chairs. Food will be available from Oak Lawn Cub Scouts, Christensen's Wagon, Big Re's Sicilian Ice and Millie's Ice Cream.

The Village Green is located north of the Oak Lawn Library and directly east of the Municipal Center , 9446 Raymond Avenue . For more information about the Summer Concert Series, please contact Chad Weiler at (708) 499-7837 or email cweiler@oaklawn-il.gov or visit our website at www.oaklawn-il.gov.

Friday Night Movies on the Village Green

The Village of Oak Lawn and the Oak Lawn Park District are sponsoring a summer movie night on Friday, July 10, 2009. The Blues Brothers, rated R, is a 1980s classic that tells the story of two brothers who put together a band in an attempt to raise money to save their childhood home. Friday Night Movies begin at dusk!

Movies are FREE and no reservations are required. Bring your own refreshments and don't forget your blankets or lawn chairs. Food will be available from Oak Lawn Cub Scouts, Christensen's Wagon, Big Re's Sicilian Ice and Millie's Ice Cream.

The Village Green is located north of the Oak Lawn Library and directly east of the Municipal Center , 9446 Raymond Avenue . For more information about the Friday Night Movie Series, please contact Chad Weiler at (708) 499-7837 or email cweiler@oaklawn-il.gov or visit our website at www.oaklawn-il.gov.

Commissioner Frank Avila

Avila to address St. Patricia's Seniors

Commissioner Frank Avila, with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, will speak before the St. Patricia's Seniors, Wednesday, July 15 at 12 noon at Hickory Hills Community Center , 7800 W. 89th Place, Hickory Hills.

Betty Sherman, coordinator, announced the commissioner will explain the

workings of the MWRD including the Deep Tunnel Project.

Commissioner Avila has over 40 years of experience as an engineer and land surveyor, lending his talent to over 300 engineering projects. He received his bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana and a master of science from the University of Arizona .

Thomas March, Oak Lawn High School student attends John Hopkins University for summer

Oak Lawn High School student attends John-Hopkins University for summer

Oak Lawn Community High School student Thomas March is again heading out east this summer where he will attend Johns-Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Last summer, as a high school sophomore, March took a college class at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts where he studied American Government alongside college students. At Hopkins, March will be studying science taught by Doctor Cindy L. Parker (a world renowned leader in her field). The class mornings will begin with Dr. Parker lecturing, and then the afternoon is followed by guest speakers, faculty, and alumni. The learning will be enhanced by a field trip to Washington D.C.

Johns-Hopkins is rated by U.S. News and World Report in the top 15 among American Universities and is often called the birthplace of Modern American Medical Education. It was founded in 1876 as the first research university in the United States . Famous alumni include President Woodrow Wilson, New York City Mayor, Michael Bloomberg, news anchor, Wolf Blitzer, among leading physicians and scientists, Nobel Prize winners, ambassadors, and Prime Ministers, are on the lengthy list. March is currently a junior at Oak Lawn Community High School , where he is a member of many clubs, sports, and has been elected President of his class for all four years. Prior to high school he attended St. Geralds and Simmons schools. He is the son of Wanda and Frank March of Oak Lawn.

Moraine Valley trustees approve 2009 and 2010 meeting schedule

The Moraine Valley Community College Board of Trustees has approved its committee and regular board meeting schedule for July 2009 through June 2010.

The Board will hold committee meetings September 1, October 6, November 3, December 1, February 2, March 2, April 6, May 4, and June 1.

Regular meetings will be held July 23, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, and December 17 in 2009 and January 19, February 16, March 16, April 22, May 18, and June 15 in 2010.

The meetings will be held in the Board Room, Building D, Room 219, on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Military News

Marine Private Nicholas W. Coluzzi graduated from Marine basic training in San Diego, California on May 22, 2009. During 13 weeks of basic training he received training in military courtesy, martial arts, confidence courses, field training swimming skills, rifle range proficiency, map reading and team building skills, self defense instruction, military drill, military history, first aid, land navigation and instruction. Training was completed with Private Coluzzi passing of the 54 hour crucible course. Private Coluzzi earned proficiency on the range and was awarded the Sharp Shooter Metal. He was also awarded the National Defense Ribbon.

Private Coluzzi will receive continuing advanced training at Camp Pendleton in California. The month long training consists of participation in combat scenarios, heavy weapons training, and advanced training in team building.

Nicholas, is the son of Richard and Jackie Coluzzi of Chicago Ridge, IL. They are members of the Glenn Maker Post #1160 in Chicago Ridge. Nicholas graduated from Richards High School in 2008, where he participated in baseball and received the honor of graduating with perfect attendance over the four years as a student.
Semper Fi

Army National Guard Pvt. Amanda J. Ruprecht has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises. Ruprecht earned distinction as an honor graduate. She is the daughter of Dawn Ruprecht of South Plahm Court, Worth, Ill., and the sister of Adam Ruprecht of Huron St., Chicago, Ill. The private is a 2007 graduate of Marist High School, Chicago.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Harry Potter exhibit at the Museum of Science of Industry

by Annette Dixon

Recently my family of seven attended the Museum, seeing the exhibit of Harry Potter. They live out of town and would have enjoyed seeing the movie. Their total cost was $163.00 with two children under the age of three (free). I have noticed many families at the exhibit and am wondering if their cost was as expensive. I am not saying it's not worth it, what I am saying is ask about the Harry Potter exhibit package which may include the movie also don't forget to look into the family membership, even if you use it once a year.

As an adult attending the exhibit by myself I would have spent two hours in there reading every display and examining closely every detail within the sets and clothing. I am not a fan of Rowling's books nor the movies, but the exhibit was so interesting it would have taken me longer than the grandchildren wanted to be there.

The Museum of Science and Industry is to premiere Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince in the Omnimax Theater.

The movie run kicks off with four midnight showings beginning on Wednesday, July 15

The Museum of Science and Industry is excited to announce that it will play host to the newest Harry Potter film, Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince at the Omnimax®, Chicago's only five-story, domed theater.

To kick off the film's run at the Museum, there will be four midnight screenings of the film, beginning at 12:01 on Wednesday, July 15 (Tuesday night), with the final screening on 12:01 on Sunday, July 19 (Saturday night). The film will also be shown multiple times daily through Sunday, Sept. 27, to coincide with the run of Harry Potter™: The Exhibition.

In this sixth film, He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named (Voldemort) is tightening his grip on both the Muggle and wizarding worlds, and Hogwarts is no longer the safe haven it once was. Harry suspects that dangers may even lie within the castle, but Dumbledore is more intent upon preparing him for the final battle that he knows is fast approaching. Meanwhile, the students are under attack from a very different adversary as teenage hormones rage across the ramparts. Love is in the air, but tragedy lies ahead, and Hogwarts may never be the same again. (This film is rated PG and is shown in the traditional, 2-D format.)

Guests to the Museum can also get the full Harry Potter experience and purchase combination tickets for the film and the exhibit, which features costumes and artifacts from the sixth movie as well as more than 200 authentic artifacts seen throughout the film series, displayed in settings inspired by the actual movie sets. The exhibit is open from 9:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday. (The last exhibit entry is at 8 p.m. every night.)

Tickets to Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, day or evening, are $15 for adults and seniors and $13 for children 3-11 and can be added to any other Museum or Harry Potter: The Exhibition ticket package. There are several shows daily. The 12 p.m. show requires the purchase of general admission to the Museum. Movie concessions will also be available in the Henry Crown Space Center, adjacent to the Omnimax theater. For more information, visit the Museum's Web site at www.msichicago.org or call (773) 684-1414 or (800) GO-TO-MSI outside of the Chicago area.

Quinn: 'Approve my budget ... or else'

His tactics will hurt those he professes to help

By John Nothdurft, Guest Columnist

As Illinois lawmakers return to Springfield, Gov. Quinn continues to push the false notion that an income tax hike is essential to shore up the state's budget. The "doomsday" budget Quinn laid out as being necessary unless a 50 percent income tax is passed is pure political theater. The tax increase is unnecessary and would further undermine the state's economy during an already-severe recession.

The governor's attempts to create political chaos by placing high-profile, "feel good" programs on the chopping block is disingenuous. By failing to address the state's fundamental spending and inefficiency problems, Quinn is setting up Illinois taxpayers for even greater future fiscal disasters.

While closing the state's budget deficit won't be a painless process and some programs should be cut, that need not mean doomsday cuts. Programs that are well intended or sound good on paper aren't necessarily effective or even valid functions of government.

Perhaps the biggest deception in Quinn's budget gambit, however, is his claim that he is trying to protect lower-income families and children. In fact, they're the ones who will be most harmed by his tax hikes. Raising taxes on small-business owners and workers will decrease the amount of money they can spend, invest, and hire workers with. Low-income and low-skilled workers will have to pay more in taxes and will typically be the first laid off when businesses have to cut costs.

Taking even more money out of the private sector, where it could be used to prevent job cuts, and instead putting it into Illinois' bureaucratic money pit is a blueprint for disaster.

As evidenced by the overwhelming initial defeat of his income tax hike, Quinn is clearly out of touch with Illinois taxpayers. Much of that distrust can be traced to the fact that there hasn't been much to show over the years for our tax dollars. According to a recent Illinois Policy Institute study, per-capita government spending in the state has grown 45 percent in the past decade. Does anyone believe Illinoisans receive 45 percent better government today than we did 10 years ago?

The Heartland Institute, Illinois Policy Institute, and Civic Federation have each come out with far more fiscally sound roadmaps for balancing Illinois' budget than the governor's proposal. Some of their suggestions include reforming the overly generous yet vastly underfunded public pension system, eliminating unnecessary government jobs and outsourcing others, and cutting myriad "economic development" schemes, such as our million-dollar subsidies to the film industry.

The state also should create a comprehensive online transparency database and establish an independent auditing commission to help hold government programs and officials more accountable while reducing wasteful spending and fraud.

Unfortunately, Quinn continues to resist and ignore any and all alternatives to his job-killing, recession-aggravating income tax hike.

Neighboring states such as Indiana already have much more attractive tax climates and will continue to attract businesses and jobs that could otherwise come to Illinois. Until Illinois lawmakers begin implementing policies that encourage greater investment in the private sector instead of the government, the state's economy will continue to deteriorate.

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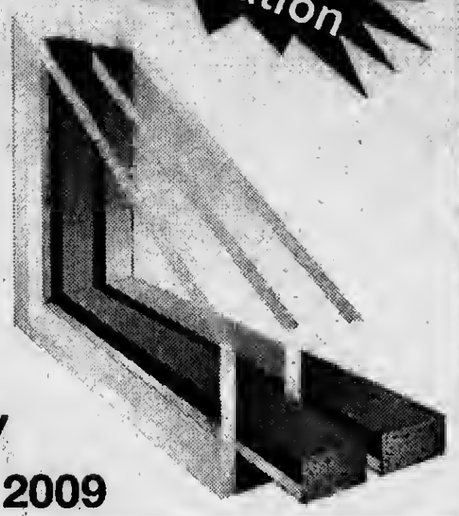

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Pappas in Avon Walk for Breast Cancer

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas crosses the finish line in the 2009 Avon Walk for Breast Cancer Chicago event. Pappas was one of 3,200 participants in the Walk, held over an early June weekend. Pappas and the Avon walkers left from Soldier Field, walked along Chicago's lakefront to Warren Park on Chicago's North Side, and returned to Soldier Field for the closing ceremony. The event raised more than $7 million for the battle against breast cancer. Pappas has participated in many of the Avon Walks.

American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Bridgeview Justice

Relay set for August 14th -Friends, neighbors and cancer survivors are coming together for an energizing celebration of the American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Bridgeview – Justice for this year's event that will ask participants to "Celebrate.

Remember.Fight Back."

"Relay For Life is a fun, family focused event where the community comes together in the fight against cancer, ". "One in three individuals has a lifetime risk of being diagnosed with cancer. So many lives are touched by cancer. For those of us who can Relay, we Relay so that someday we will be able to eliminate this disease forever. We welcome anyone who would like to join us and help in fighting back against cancer."Relay for Life is in it's 17th year in Illinois.

Relay For Life is an overnight event where teams of local businesses, schools, churches, community groups and families raise funds - prior to and at the event - to fight cancer.

This year's American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Bridgeview will be held from 6:00 p.m. on August 14th to 6:00 a.m. on August 15th at The Bridgeview Park District 8100 South Beloit in Bridgeview.

Volunteers are needed to organize and recruit teams, secure community support, coordinate logistics, obtain refreshments and prizes, assist with publicity and plan entertainment activities for this exciting and energizing event, which celebrates cancer survivors while honoring those in the community who lost their battle with cancer.

Our next meeting is Thursday July 9, at 7:00 p.m. at the Bridgeview Park District 8100 South Beloit, stop by or for more information on RELAY FOR LIFE , contact Adam Wilt at the American Cancer Society at 708-484-8542, by e-mail at adam.wilt@cancer.org or visit www.relayforlifebridgeview.com. Teams may register on-line anytime.

The American Cancer Society is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by saving lives, diminishing suffering and preventing cancer through research, education, advocacy and service.

The Illinois Division has more than 120,000 volunteers and staff fighting cancer in the state. For the most up-to-date cancer related information and to join the fight against cancer, call 800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

To the editor:

Your city's Independence Day fireworks were recently picked as a "must-see" display by the American Pyrotechnics Association, but whether they're ignited by individuals or launched as part of an official exhibition, fireworks endanger both humans and animals. Here are five reasons why this year's celebration should be the last to include fireworks:

1. Fireworks pollute the air with greenhouse gases, asthma-triggering salts, and fine particulate matter found to reduce life expectancy in a study published in The New England Journal of Medicine.

2. Groundwater is often polluted with substances released by fireworks, including perchlorate, a chemical known to impair thyroid function and damage fetuses

3. The loud noises associated with fireworks are devastating to our animal companions. Not only can they suffer damage to their sensitive ears, but, in their attempts to escape the frightening noise, animals often run away and become lost or injured.

4. Fireworks also impact wild animals—especially birds, who have been known to choke on the plumes of pyrotechnic blasts or to become so disoriented and frightened that they abandon their fledglings.

5. Humans are also endangered by the risk of fires and the frequency of serious injuries ranging from third-degree burns to blindness.

Please contact your local officials and urge them to replace pyrotechnic displays with equally dazzling—and more humane alternatives like laser light shows. To learn more, visit www.PETA.org

Jeff Mackey
Research Specialist
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
501 Front St.
Norfolk, VA 23510
832-215-7545
JeffM@peta.org

Movie in the Park

Tinley Park, Illinois, June 30, 2009 – The Tinley Park-Park District will host a Movie in the Park on Wednesday, July 8 at the Bettenhausen Recreation Center band shell, 8125 W. 171st Street. This month's feature is Willie Wonka & the Chocolate Factory which will begin at dusk. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs and come out to enjoy a movie under the stars on our 15 X 20 foot blimp screen. The movie will be shown indoors in case of inclement weather. FREE!

Local artist stars in Pump Boys & Dinettes

by Marijo Doody

The popular Rock n' Roll Country Blue Grass Review is now running at Drury Lane Oakbrook through August 2, 2009. The play received a Tony Award nomination for Best Musical in 1982.

The pump boys are played by Shaun Whitley, Jesse Kazemek, Alan Bukowiecki and Brian Burke and the sassy dinettes are Tammy Mader and Liza Janie.

Alan Bukowiecki makes his professional acting debut in this production. In a conversation with him at the opening night reception, Alan indicated Malcolm Ruhl, Music Director suggested that he try out for the roll of LM in the production. They had worked together in The Buddy Holly Story at Drury Oak Brook.

Alan has local ties as he has been music director at St. John Fisher for seven years, lives in the south loop and his family is in Tinley Park. Alan indicated that for the roll of LM he had to learn to play the accordion, which was not that hard as he play keyboard.

Alan has received a Jeff Citation for outstanding Music Direction of Dr Sex in 2004 and in 2005 for Parade performed at Balilwick Theatre. Alan appears regularly as a rock n roll dueling pianist at Chicago's Howl at the Moon.

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Orland Township Retro Swing Dinner Dance

Seniors' age 55 and over come and join Orland Township at its Retro/ Swing Dinner Dance.

The Dinner Dance will be held on Thursday, July 23, 2009 at Orland Chateau, 14500 S. LaGrange Rd. , Orland Park, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Tickets are necessary and can be purchased at the Orland Township office, 15100 S. 94th Ave. , Orland Park .

Tickets for Orland Township residents are available now for $16.00. Non-resident tickets will be available starting June 22, 2009 at a cost of $21.00.

Ticket price includes a delicious family style meal and entertainment by the Flat Cats. The Flat Cats will provide a blend of vintage and modern music, which includes the hottest swinging jazz and blues.

The Flat Cats have performed at Navy Pier, the Willowbrook Ballroom and the Drake Hotel. Door prizes and a 50/50 raffle will also be offered as part of the evening festivities. Orland Township serves the communities of Orland Park, Orland Hills, Unincorporated Orland Township and the western half of Tinley Park.

The Orland Township Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday evenings until 6:00p.m. Contact Kathy Kenyeri Senior Services Coordinator at (708) 403-4222.

Kids Kamp has the Golden Ticket: SUMMER Fun Multiplied by One Hundred and One!

99th Street Summer Theatre Kids Kamp proudly presents a world of Pure Imagination for grades 6 through 9 as they venture through the factory of the mysterious Willy Wonka in the musical "Willy Wonka, Jr." This classic movie turned musical stage production is sure to hit your sweet tooth! Everyone from the celebrated film makes an appearance including Charlie Bucket, Grandpa Jo, Veruca Salt, Violet Beauregard, Mike TeeVee, and of course Willy Wonka himself, joined by all of your favorite Oompa Loompas!

There is also a whole litter of talented pups this summer in the Kid's Kamp production of "101 Dalmations." Grades K through 5 will work together to put on a kid's version of the Disney classic. They will sing your favorite tunes from the toe tapping "Dalmation Plantation" to the wickedly great "Cruella DeVille." These talented canine kids are definitely prepared to bow-WOW! you with their performance! Kids Kamp has been a South Side children's theatre staple for twenty summers and is still running strong! A talented staff of theatre, dance, and music professionals leads the children through the creative three-week session of intensive training and fun. This production will be the culmination of their efforts, allowing the children to showcase their newfound talents and skill. "Willy Wonka" will take place July 10 at 10:30am and July 11 at noon. "101 Dalmatians" will take place July 10 at noon and July 11 at 10:30am.

Tickets are $6 for adults, $4 for children and seniors. Both take place at Mother McAuley Auditorium, 3737 W 99th St. , Chicago , IL , 60655 . If you have any questions call 773 881 6512.

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Parker High School Reunion

Fourteen years ago, graduates of Parker High School formerly at 68th and Stewart Avenue in Chicago formed an Alumni Association for students who have celebrated their 50th anniversary from school. This year a luncheon will be held at the Lexington House Banquet in Hickory Hills on Sunday, September 27, 2009 at Noon.

The graduates of classes 1939, 1944, 1949, and 1954 will be honored. All the graduates from all the classes through 1959 are invited to attend this luncheon. Ed O'Farrell is the Chairman of the Planning Committee that meets the second Thursday of each month at 10:30 am in the Oak Lawn Library, 9427 Raymond, Oak Lawn.

For additional information call Collins at 708-424-4009 or O'Farrell at 773-779-3198.

Graduates from St Martin School and neighbors meet monthly

On the last Monday of every month at NOON people gather in the bar area at Hackney's Restaurant at 123rd and LaGrange Road in Palos Park to talk and greet one another and to reminisce about the good old days.

Many graduates from 1936 and up until 1956 attend these luncheons. You may see someone you know or lived near. Not only St. Martin students attend these luncheons, people who lived in the neighborhood also attend. At the present time, it only costs $14 which includes a selection off a menu, beverage, and tip.

You will be delighted with what you see. Some of the people bring photos from the past and this surprises everyone.

If you want to leave your name, you can call Annette Stella Dixon at 312-624-8996.

Southwest Community Services in Tinley holds bingo

Tuesday Night Bingo, July 7th

Southwest Community Services, Inc., (SCS), 6775 Prosperi Drive, Tinley Park, hosts weekly Tuesday Night Bingo. Doors open at 5:00 pm. Early bird games at 6:30, bingo at 7:00. Paper, computer, raffle, pull tabs, full concessions. Please, no outside food. Free coffee. Wheel chair accessible, air-conditioned, lighted parking. For additional information, visit www.swcsinc.org or call 708-429-1260.

Tuesday Night Bingo, July 14th

Southwest Community Services, Inc., (SCS), 6775 Prosperi Drive, Tinley Park, hosts weekly Tuesday Night Bingo. Doors open at 5:00 pm. Early bird games at 6:30, bingo at 7:00. Paper, computer, raffle, pull tabs, full concessions. Please, no outside food. Free coffee. Wheel chair accessible, air-conditioned, lighted parking. For additional information, visit www.swcsinc.org or call 708-429-1260.

Tuesday Night Bingo, July 21st

Southwest Community Services, Inc., (SCS), 6775 Prosperi Drive, Tinley Park, hosts weekly Tuesday Night Bingo. Doors open at 5:00 pm. Early bird games at 6:30, bingo at 7:00. Paper, computer, raffle, pull tabs, full concessions. Please, no outside food. Free coffee. Wheel chair accessible, air-conditioned, lighted parking. For additional information, visit www.swcsinc.org or call 708-429-1260.

Tuesday Night Bingo, July 28th

Southwest Community Services, Inc., (SCS), 6775 Prosperi Drive, Tinley Park, hosts weekly Tuesday Night Bingo. Doors open at 5:00 pm. Early bird games at 6:30, bingo at 7:00. Paper, computer, raffle, pull tabs, full concessions. Please, no outside food. Free coffee. Wheel chair accessible, air-conditioned, lighted parking. For additional information, visit www.swcsinc.org or call 708-429-1260.

Eligible future members of the Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars started in 1914. The object of the organization is to be fraternal, patriotic, historical and Educational; to assist the Post and the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its members.

We are the mothers, stepmothers, wives, widows, sisters, stepsisters and half

Sisters, daughters, fosters and stepdaughters, grandmothers, granddaughters Foster mothers and sisters, who were in the status of foster mother or sister before the service was rendered, who are citizens of the United States of America , not less than sixteen (16) years of age, of deceased or honorably discharged Officers or enlisted persons, who are citizens of the United States of America, whose service entitles them to membership in the VFW as specified by the laws governing eligibility in the

A great opportunity for today's children

Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ is hosting its annual Vacation Bible School from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Monday to Friday, July 13 to 17, in the church building at 9411 S. 51st Ave., Oak Lawn.

The theme will be Camp EDGE, which stands for Experiencing and Discovering God Everywhere. Through games, crafts and music, children from age 3 to Grade 5 will have the opportunity to learn that their strength and might come from God, according to a VBS spokeswoman. Rock music, an extreme sports video and science activities also will be among the tools used to bring children closer to God.

The fee is $5 with a $10 maximum per family.

Registration is available at www.pilgrimfaith.org and click on http://www.cokesburyvbs.com/PilgrimFaithUCC/ce/. Go to "participant" to register a child and//or "volunteer" to help out. Forms also are available in Colonial Hall of the church or the church office.

One does not need to be a member of the church to participate.

Further information is available by calling the church office at (708) 422-4200.

VFW, The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars are looking for new members that meet the above listed eligibility requirements, Veterans from all wars from WWI to the current War on Terrorism.

For more information or to find a VFW Post and or Auxiliary close to you please contact: Barbara Maruszak, 3rd District President & President Johnson Phelps Aux # 5220 at 708-638-7109. or barbaramaruszak@yahoo.com.

Summer Festivals – Carnival's – Picnic's
Call for Special Rates on Events, or Fundraisers.
Linda 312-624-8996

Evergreen Park Library Programs

Make a Mosaic Mural at the E.P. Library Professional artist Chris Zonta will teach the principles of mosaic art to create a colorful mural that will be on permanent display in the Evergreen Park Library, 9400 S. Troy . The program will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from July 7th through July 20th. Grades 4-5 will meet from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and Grades 6-8 will meet from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Registration is required.

Cartooning at the Evergreen Park Public Library! On Wednesday, July 8th from 4:00-5:00 pm at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy, teens, grades 6-12, are invited to learn how to draw cartoons from a Beverly Arts Center instructor. Registration is required.

Coil Pottery Workshop at the Library! On Wednesday, July 8th and 15th at 6:30 pm, grades 2-5 are invited to the Evergreen Park Library, 9400 S. Troy to create a coil pot out of clay the first week and paint it the second week. For more information, call (708) 422-8522.Learn

Microsoft Word Hands-On The Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy , invites adults to join John Hojek, from Prairie State College and learn the basics of Microsoft Word hands-on. Registration is required along with $10.00 fee which will be refunded upon attendance. This FREE program will take place on Thursday, July 9th from 6:30 until 8:30 pm.

Playful Poetry with Heidi Bee Roemer On Friday, July 10th at 1:00 pm, grades K-5 are invited to the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy to celebrate poetry with poet and author, Heidi Bee Roemer.

Trip to Harry Potter Exhibit at the museum On Friday, July 10th from 8:30-1:00 pm, all ages are invited to take a trip to the Museum of Science & Industry with the Evergreen Park Public Library. See Harry Potter movie costumes, sets, and experience the interactive exhibit first hand. The bus will leave the library at 8:30 am and will return at approximately 1:00 pm. Registration and a $20.00 per person fee are required.

Teen Movie Night at the Library! The Evergreen Park Library, 9400 S. Troy will show the movie 10 Things I Hate About You [PG-13], to teens, grades 6-12 on **Friday, July 10th at 3:00 pm**. For more information, call (708) 422-8522.**Animal Art at the Evergreen Park Public Library** On **Saturday, July 11th from 2:00- 4:00 pm,** all ages are invited to the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy to make a variety of animal art projects at several stations.

Duct Tape Craft Series at the Evergreen Park Public Library! On **Mondays, July 13th and July 27th from 2:00-4:00 pm** at the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy , teens, grades 6-12, will learn how to make duct tape roses on 7/13 and iPod covers on 7/27. Registration required.

Songwriting at the Evergreen Park Public Library On **Monday, July 13th from 10:00-11:00 am,** grades K-3 are invited to the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy to participate in a songwriting workshop taught by instructors from the Beverly Arts Center ! Registration is required.

Farmers Market Dinner with Chef Kate Bradley Adults are invited to the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 South Troy on **Tuesday, July 14th at 6:30 pm,** to learn how to make delicious dishes from the fresh bounty of fruits and vegetables from the Evergreen Park Farmers' Market! Samples to taste and copies of Chef Kate's recipes will be given. Registration and a $3.00 tasting fee are required.**Create a Graphic Novel at the E.P. Library** On **Wednesday, July 15th from 4:00-5:00 pm,** teen in grades 6-12 are invited to the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy to participate in a graphic novel workshop taught by instructors from the Beverly Arts Center! Registration is required.

Recreating Famous Paintings at the E.P. Library On **Wednesday, July 15th from 6:30-8:30 pm,** all ages are invited to the Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy to paint a piece of a famous painting and reassemble the pieces with other partici-pants to see how the group effort compares to the original! Registration is required.

For all the above programs (708) 422-8522.

Oak Lawn Library presents various programs

Free Movie: Ratatouille

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will host a free screening of Disney's "Ratatouille" from 12-2 p.m. on Friday, July 10. Remy wants to be a chef in Paris. What's the problem? He's a rat! Remy will have to be creative to win over humans, rats and the critics in this Academy-Award winning Pixar movie. Patrons of all ages are invited to bring their lunch and enjoy this movie with audience participation activities that involve song, dance and creativity. No advance registration is required. This is one of five family films featured in the library's annual summer reading program.

Free Juggling Performance

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will host a free juggling performance with "The Truly Remarkable Loon" (www.trloon.com) on Wednesday, July 15 from 7-8 p.m. Patrons of all ages are invited to marvel as this comedic juggler performs with clubs, balls, a mongoose, scarves, sports equipment, spinning plates and giant bean bag chairs. No advance registration is required. Lower level meeting room.

For more information about this and other summer reading activities, call 708-422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

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This One's For Gina!

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Adult Admission: $25 - Children 12 and under: $20

On December 6, 2008, Chicago Police Sergeant and Mt Greenwood resident, Gina Dwyer-Meliska suffered cardiac arrest. Although she was fortunate to receive CPR moments after she collapsed, Gina was without oxygen for an extended period and has been in a state of minimal consciousness ever since.

Gina is a remarkable person who has always given 110% to her family, neighbors and fellow police officers. Please join us in a benefit honoring her as we strive to give back to Gina and her family.

For more information about the benefit please visit: www.thisonesforgina.com
Questions: call Bob Mizera at 312-296-4853 or Maggie Engstrom at 773-491-0968
To purchase raffle tickets online, please visit: www.thisonesforgina-sales.com

OAK LAWN SENIOR HAPPENINGS

On Monday, July 20th at 10:00 a.m. a presentation "The Culture of Native Americans" will be given by Tevelee Okee-Chee Gudino. She will unravel the traditions and rituals of her Apache-Lakota roots. Her presentation will include rare artifacts and hand crafted treasures. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of her program.

On the last Thursday of every month a box lunch is planned. The success of the day is all thanks to local businesses who offer to sponsor the program. By doing so they make this day affordable to Oak Lawn seniors. July 30th is being sponsored by Peace Village located at 10330 Village Circle Drive in Palos Park.

They are situated on 23 acres of natural land, with walking paths, wildlife and natural foliage. Their residents are active and involved in many groups and organizations both at the community and throughout the area. Those who attend the box lunch will be given a gift certificate for a free lunch at Peace Village to to see what Peace has to offer. Tickets may be purchased at the Senior Center for $3.50. Seating is limited.

The Senior Citizen Council will hold it's annual picnic at Wolfe Wildlife Rufuge, 109th and Laramie on Tuesday, August 11th. Pack your picnic baskets and join friends for a fun-filled day in the fresh air. Lunch will be provided to all who attend the picnic, compliments of the Senior Council. You must purchase a ticket from the Senior Center Staff for $1.00. Ticket proceeds will be applied to bingo prizes. The picnic grounds open at 9 a.m. with all activities completed by 3 p.m. Tickets are now available at the Center.

For further details on any of the activities you may call 499-0240 or stop by the Center, 5330 West 95 Street for a calendar of events.

Participants and coordinators of the Leadership Academy of the Southwest Suburbs (LASS) celebrate the completion of the six week program: (front row) Maureen Connor-Kelly, Irene Patino, Debi Ross, Rose Paleczny and Kimberly Duffy: (back row) Maureen Niswonger, Julie Casillas, Keloryn Putnam, Worth Mayor Randy Keller, Kristin Zell and Melinda Kreiher. LASS which was held February thru May, is an intensive leadership training program affiliated with St. Xavier University, developed in close collaboration with the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce and Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce. The program trains and motivates local business professionals who wish to advance their leadership capabilities and strengthen their businesses.

Program coordinators for the Leadership Academy of the Southwest Suburbs (LASS) included Keloryn Putnam; Executive Director Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce, Julie Casillas; St. Xavier University , Maureen Niswonger, Maureen Connor-Kelly; St. Xavier University , Dr. Leslie Petty; St. Xavier University, Melinda Kreiher and Bernadette Shanahan-Haus of the Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce. LASS, which was held January thru May, is an intensive leadership training program affiliated with St. Xavier University, developed in close collaboration with the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce and Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce. The program trains and motivates local business professionals who wish to advance their leadership capabilities and strengthen their businesses.

Worth Mayor Randy Keller and Orland Park Mayor Daniel McLaughlin attend the graduation celebration for attendees of the Leadership Academy of the Southwest Suburbs (LASS). LASS, which was held February thru May, is an intensive leadership training program affiliated with St. Xavier University, developed in close collaboration with the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce and Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce. The program trains and motivates local business professionals who wish to advance their leadership capabilities and strengthen their businesses.

Military News

Justin M. Schilling has received an Air Force ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) college scholarship offer to attend a selected host college or university. The cadet was selected to receive the scholarship certificate on the basis of comprehensive tests, high school scholastic achievement, and extra-curricular activities. The majority ofAir Force ROTC scholarships cover full college/ university tuition, provide textbook allowance, and pay most laboratory or incidental fees. In addition, at least a $300 tax-free monthly allowance is paid to recipients during the academic year. The estimated value of the scholarship depends on the student's choice of school and type of scholarship offered.

Upon graduation from college and completion of the ROTC program, the cadet will receive a bachelors degree and a commission of second lieutenant in the Air Force. Schilling is the son of Todd D. and Rachelle Schilling of W. 89th St., Oak Lawn, Ill. The cadet graduated in 2009 from Marist High School, Chicago, Ill.

Air Force Airman Markneal Llantograduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. He is the son of Luzviminda Llanto of Kostner Ave. Midlothian, Ill.

Llanto is a 2008 graduate of Bremen High School, Midlothian.

99 Street Summer Theatre opens with Beauty and the Beast

A 'Tale as Old as Time' comes to 99 th Street with "Disney's Beauty and the Beast" The 99th Street Summer Theatre Festival will present "Disney's Beauty and the Beast" on July 9, 10, and 11 at 8:00pm to open its 31 st season of community summer theatre in the McAuley Auditorium, 3737 W. 99th Street , Chicago

The 99th Street Summer Theatre Festival production is directed by Patricia Haynes. This shows lively choreography is by Marci Caliendo and Michael Gutrich, with musical direction by Stacey Cunningham.

The set design is under the supervision of Bridget Thomas, advised by DonnaRose Thomas and lighting designed by Colleen Thomas. "Disney's Beauty and the Beast" features a talented and energetic cast including Tony Levine as the Beast, Andrea Collier as Belle, Brian Rigg as Maurice, Donald Fitzgibbons as Gaston, and Alonso Chavano as LeFou.

As everyone's favorite singing, dancing inanimate objects are Noah Pligge as the candelabra, LumiereAndy Lambros as the temperamental clock, Cogsworth; Margaret Hayes as the motherly tea pot, Mrs. Potts; Caitlin Taff as Mrs. Pott's tea cup son, Chip and Terese Pikula as the sassy feather duster, Babette. Complete with dancing table settings, the china cabinet includes the dancing talents of Sarah Menke, Tornu Ngwayah, Louis B Edano, Maggie Omastiak; Sam Malone, Shelby Critchet, Aimee Jarzembowski, Annie Leahy, Aoife Rosso, Armi Grace Cortes, Calre Nawrocki, Holly Carmody, Kaitlyn Richards, Aishling Pembroke, Devan Distledorf, Elise Harrigan, Julie Tucker, Kelly Bartusiak, Lauren Sheely, Cara Walsh Fiona Lane , Haley Kich, Hannah Gibbs, Hope Salman, Megan Lavelle, Shelby Wisniewski, and Genevieve Predergast. Gaston is followed by the doting group of Silly Girls, Diane Haberkorn, Jordan Roulo, Katie Norton, Mary Kelly, Maura Stanton and Rachel Page.

Menacing wolves add to the dramatic tale, with Aitor Gonzalez, Nick Shine, Pete Grundas, Nick Scully , Tom Moster, Tony Collier.

The talented little town is made complete with the voices of Rick Salazar , Julie Schuberth, Chris Ward, Hannah Hayes, Chris Norton, Tim Jones, Sarah Bednarski, Emily Rahman, Kyle Kempczynski Angel Idowu, Anitra Hutcherson, Becky Finn, Bob Schuberth, Brandon Pickett, Brett Krivich, Brian Fitzgibbons, Brian Walsh, Claire Ryan, Eileen Torpy, Helen Mlynarski, James Radomski, Jim Egan, Joanna Ziarko, John Bryar, John Williamson, Julian Rojas, Julie Burns, Katherine Houze, Katherine Williams, Kathie VanPuyenbroeck, Kathleen McGrath, Katie Kyler, Kevin Newberry, Leo Allen, Mark Nakayama, Matthew Storino Michael Moroz, Nicole Muffitt, Nora Heiderscheidt, Sean Williams, Walt Sabbath and Joe Rocasalva as D'Arque.

We would love for you to "Be Our Guest" this summer! Tickets to "Disney's Beauty and the Beast" and "Little Women: The Musical" ($16 adults, $14 senior citizens, $12 children) may be purchased by phone at 773-881-6512 with a Visa or MasterCard or in person at the Mother McAuley Auditorium.

For information on individual or group ticket sales call 773-881-6512.

Chicago Ridge resident received top student award

Stephanie L. Seweryn of Chicago Ridge was seleeted as a Top T en Student Leader Scholarship Award recipient at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. She has just completed her sophomore year, majoring in Non-Profit Management in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs. In addition to this award, she is in the Honors College and on the Dean's List.

Stephanie is also a Resident Assistant. This past year, she served as the President of R.A.I.S.E. (Raising Awareness of Interactions in Sexual Encounters) a peer education group that focuses on healthy sexual communieation and sexual assault prevention education.

Next year, she will be the program's External Affairs Director. In addition, Stephanie works as the NonProfit Allianee Co-Coordinator for United Way of Monroe County, IN. Initiative Essay Contest.

Sandoval (Chicago Lawn). who will be a sophomore at De La Salle's Lourdes Hall Campus for Young Women. had her essay chosen as one of the 12 best in her grade.

An enrollee in the Honors Program, Sandoval owns a 4.091 grade-point average and is ranked No. 13 in the 133-member Class of 2012 at De La Salle's Lourdes Hall Campus for Young Women.

De La Salle eongratulates Sandoval on her impressive achievement and wishes her every future suecess.

De La Salle Institute is an independent Catholie seeondary school rooted in the tradition of Christian Education begun by St. John Baptist de La Salle. Founded in 1889, its mission has been, and is, to foster a desire for excellenee in education.

Young people from a variety of ethnic and economic baekgrounds are given the opportunity to fully develop their abilities so they may be active, contributing members of our complex changing society.

De La Salle's Alyssa Sandoval Wins Illinois Fatherhood Initiative Essay Contest

De La Salle Institute proudly announees that student Alyssa Sandoval was selected as one of 156 winners from among 18,000 entries in the Illinois Fatherhood Initiative/ Chicago White Sox 2009 Illinois Fatherhood

Theatre at the Center presents Footloose

A story of teenage rebellion overeoming misconceptions and fears of adults is the story in Footloose. This is Theatre at the Center's next produetion opening July 9 for the run until August 16, 2009 at the Munster theatre located within 45 minutes of Chicago.

The cast includes Matt Raffery, Andrea Prestinio. Larry Adams, and others. Staeey Flaster is Director and Choreo-grapher. Bill Underwood is Musie Director. The theatre was founded in 1991 and offers year-round profes-sional equity theatre. It is located 1040 Ridge Road, Munster.

Call the ticket box office 219-836-3255 for tickets. Performances are Wednesday through -Sunday.

Forget the cake

Chicago-based breadmaker S. Rosen's is celebrating its 100th anniversary with hot dog buns in a $100,000 Bun-a-thon that will raise money for multiple food banks in the communities served by its four manufacturing plants in Chicago. Indiana and Wisconsin. The company is donating 10 cents of every bun sold at more than 1,740 participating hot dog stands from July 13-19 to help feed the hungry.

Founded a century ago as a loeal Chieago bakery speeializing in rye bread, S. Rosen's today produees over 300 varieties of breads, buns and rolls – ineluding more than 98,000 hot dog buns per hour for a total of 279 million a year. Lined up end to end, the company's annual bun produetion would span 25.540 miles - eireling the Earth.

Dinosaurs at the Field Museum

Go on a Global Adventure of Science and Discovery as we Bring Dinosaurs Back to Life...in a Big Way!

Follow along with paleontologists as they explore some of the greatest dinosaur finds in history in Dinosaurs Alive! 3-D! This speetacular new 3-D film is now showing in our Ernst & Young 3-D Theater. Chicago's only completely digital 3-D theater using state-of-the-art technology.

Tickets to a Field Museum 3-D movie are $5 per person with basic admission to the Museum. Tickets ean only be purchased at the Museum. 1400 S. Lake Shore Dr. Chieago. IL 60605

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Many celebrities join The Leadership Summit 2009

People are looking for a leader with integrity they can trust. Join more than 100,000 leaders from church and business communities aeross the North America at The Leadership Summit 2009. Willow Creek Chureh in South Barrington, Ill. will host The Leadership Summit Thursday. August 6 and Friday, August 7 to be broadcast live via satellite to Park Community Church in Chieago, Community Christian Church in Naperville and to 140 eities across North Ameriea.

Bono, lead singer of U2. will provide a progress report on his challenge to Summit attendees three years ago to take up the cause against HIV/AIDS. Meanwhile, a world class faculty will help partieipants unlock the "Cascading Effeet" a leader can have on an organization.

Learn powerful leadership techniques like casting vision. motivating others, self-management. team building, and more. o Bono (videocast) — Lead singer of U2: Hybels — Founding and senior pastor of Willow Creek Community Chureh in South Barrington, Ill., rated the "Most Intluential Chureh" in the U.S. in 2006; author of Axiom: Powerful Leadership Proverbs

o Tony Blair (videocast) — Former British Prime Minister; awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom by President George W. Bush; author of The Courage of Our Convictions.

oCarly Fiorina — Former chairman and CEO of Hewlett-Packard; first woman to head a Dow 30 eompany; named "The Most Powerful Woman in Business" by Fortune

oDavid Gergen — Politieal analyst for CNN and PBS; served under Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan and Clinton; professor at Harvard's School of Public Leadership.

oHarvey Carey — Founder and senior pastor of the Citadel of Faith Covenant Church; Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Central Detroit Christian Community Development Corporation.

o Jessiea Jackley — co-founder of Kiva.org; work featured on Oprah and Today; graduate of Stanford Graduate School of Business. WHEN: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. C.T., Thursday, Aug. 6 – Friday, Aug. 7, 2009

Willow Creek Chureh (host of summit) 67 East Algonquin Rd., South Barrington, IL 60010

Park Community Church 1001 N. Crosby, Chieago, IL 60610

Community Christian Church1635 Emerson Lane, Naperville, IL 60540

REGISTER: For information about local satellite sites or to register for The Leadership Summit, visit www.willowereek.com/summit, email leadershipinfo@willowcreek.org or call (800) 570-9812.

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Steppenwolf Theatre Presents Up

Steppenwolf Theatre Company concludes its 2008-2009 season, an exploration of the imagination, with Up by Bridget Carpenter, directed by ensemble member Anna D. Shapiro and featuring ensemble members Ian Barford and Martha Lavey with Rachel Brosnahan, Jake Cohen, Tony Hernandez and Lauren Katz. Up plays until August 23, 2009 in Steppenwolf's Downstairs Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted.

On the best day of his life, Walter Griffin built a flying machine that reached the clouds. Ever since, he's tried to recapture that authentic moment of feeling completely free. His son Mikey dreams of a different path to freedom: getting rich. And his wife Helen just dreams of a husband who will keep his feet on the ground. Up is a quirky, bittersweet tale about an American family trying to escape the boundaries of the everyday by harnessing the power of the imagination.

Bridget Carpenter is an award-winning playwright whose works have been produced at theaters across the country including Arena Stage, Lincoln Center and the Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville. Anna D. Shapiro won a 2008 Tony* Award for her direction of Steppenwolf's critically-acclaimed play August: Osage County, which transferred to Broadway and London after a sold-out run in Chicago .

The design team for Up includes: Dan Ostling (sets), Mara Blumenfeld (costumes), Ann G. Wrightson (lights) Richard Woodbury (sound) and David Singer (composition). Edward Sobel is the Dramaturg, Laura D. Glenn is the Stage Manager and Deb Styer is the Assistant Stage Manager. Ensemble members include Ian Barford (Walter) and Martha Lavey (Aunt Chris) with Rachel Brosnahan (Maria), Jake Cohen (Mikey Griffin), Tony Hernandez (Philippe Petit) and Lauren Katz (Helen Griffin). Steppenwolf Downstairs Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St . will have twenty $20 tickets at Audience Services beginning at 11:00 a.m. on the day of each performance (1:00 p.m. for Sunday performances). Half-price rush tickets are available one hour before each show. Student discounts available.Audience Services: 1650 N. Halsted, 312-335-1650

The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust is the foundation sponsor for Up. Free post-show discussions, sponsored by AT&T, are offered after every performance. Steppenwolf is located near all forms of public transportation and is wheelchair accessible. Street and lot parking are available. Assistive listening devices are available for every performance.

Lookingglass Theatre Company celebrates Daniel Burnham Plan Centennial with limited run of our future metropolis

Special benefit performance on July 14, 2009 to honor Commissioner of Cultural Affairs Lois Weisberg

Lookingglass Theatre Company announces the limited run of Our Future Metropolis: Mr. D.H. Burnham Presents a Plain Talk for the Development of Chicago, adapted and directed by Ensemble Member John Musial, featuring Ensemble Member Raymond Fox. The production will play at Lookingglass Theatre Company, located inside Chicago 's historic Water Tower Water Works, 821 N. Michigan Ave. at Pearson on Monday, July 13, Monday, July 20 and Tuesday, July 21 at 7:30 p.m.

A special benefit performance honoring Commissioner of Cultural Affairs Lois Weisberg will be held in the theater on Tuesday, July 14, 2009. Event highlights will include a pre-show reception in the Lookingglass Lobby, gala performance of Our Future Metropolis, and post-show party hosted by EVE at 840 N Wabash.

Lookingglass, the only theater company participating in the City-wide Burnham Plan Centennial, is proud to pay tribute to this important part of Chicago 's history. The limited run production celebrates the anniversary of Burnham's groundbreaking plan for the urban design of the City of Chicago .

Adapted and directed by Ensemble Member John Musial, Our Future Metropolis draws from the archives of the Burnham Library at the Art Institute of Chicago to recreate the initial presentation of Burnham's Plan for The City of Chicago given 100 years ago. Lookingglass Ensemble Member Raymond Fox plays Daniel Burnham as he struggles to win over a skeptical audience using nothing more than early "magic lantern" slides and his own conviction in Chicago 's greatness.

"It is exciting to be looking backward to Burnham's original vision for the development of the city, at a time when Chicago looks forward to a new century's growth with the 2020 plan and as we contemplate an Olympic bid," says John Musial. "The themes Burnham set forth 100 years ago have tangible continuity to our present—so many issues he wrestled with remain with us today. The scale of his approach remains a gauntlet thrown to the future. Burnham challenges us to dream big."

Lookingglass Ensemble Member John Musial has created several theatrical productions celebrating Chicago's history and culture, including the adaptation and direction of Nelson Algren: For Keeps and A Single Day and The Great Fire. He most recently designed the set for Lookingglass' acclaimed production of Our Town.

Ensemble Member Raymond Fox has worked with Lookingglass since 1989. In addition to numerous roles with Lookingglass, he has appeared at the Goodman, Remy Bumppo, Court, and off-Broadway in Mary Zimmerman's Metamorphoses. He was most recently seen in Lookingglass' spring production of Our Town.

Location and tickets

Lookingglass Theatre is located in the heart of the Magnificent Mile shopping district inside Chicago 's historic Water Tower Water Works, 821 N. Michigan Ave. at Pearson. Discounted parking is available for Lookingglass patrons at nearby Olympia Centre Garage (161 E. Chicago Ave.).

Tickets are $25 and are available by calling the Lookingglass Theatre box office at (312) 337-0665 or by visiting lookingglassthearre.org. Student tickets are available for $10.00 at the box office with a valid student ID. Tickets include a post-show discussion with a Burnham scholar, TBA.

Our Future Metropolis Benefit on July 14, 2009, 100 years to the day that Daniel Burnham delivered his famous "make no little plans" address, in which he outlined his enduring vision for The City of Chicago, there will be a benefit performance honoring Lois Weisberg, City of Chicago Commissioner of Cultural Affairs. The benefit will include a pre-show reception in the Lookingglass Lobby at 5:30 p.m., a gala performance of Our Future Metropolis, and post-show celebration at 8 p.m.

The event will be co-chaired by board member Leigh Bienen and Dr. Henry Bienen, President of Northwestern University.

Profits from the benefit performance and celebration will go toward advancing Lookingglass's commitment to new theatrical works, and enhancing its educational and community programs, which currently reach more than 15,000 Chicago-area community members annually.

Gala singe tickets are $100 and include admission to the pre-show reception and after-party.

Supporter tickets are $250, and include 2 tickets, premium seating, listing as a Donor and admission to the pre-show reception and after-party.

For more information about the benefit performance, please contact Meghan Oppegard, Development and Special Events Coordinator, at (773) 477-9257, ext. 122. lookingglasstheatre.org.

Nederlands sets a perfect ten

by Marijo Doody

People were from all over the United States for this awe inspiring vision that was worth the thirty-five year wait. Chicago audiences were treated to the genius of Nederlands Dans Theatre (NDT), with the three artistic directors in the house. Jim Vincent (former Hubbard Street Dance Artistic Director) is the new Artistic Director of NDT. Glenn Edgerton will become artistic director of Hubbard Street Dance and as a former dancer and artistic director of NDT left his mark.

This was one of the most awesome dance events in Chicago in decades. It was the European high standard for contemporary dance. There were 24 dancers with precisionist techniques and gestures brilliantly portrayed. It was like theatre.

The contemporary works began with "Shoot the Moon" with scenes out of a movie with a rotating stage that went scene to scene. The dancers were brilliant. Some were projected in video.

Let us hope that it is not so long that the company returns to Chicago's dance scene.

Profiles Theatre extends acclaimed world premiere of Graceland through August 16

Profiles Theatre announces the extension of Graceland, the World Premiere production, written by Ellen Fairey, directed by Matthew Miller. This is the final play of Profile's 20th Anniversary Season. Acclaimed Chicago actress Cheryl Graeff will be joining the cast as Sara for the extended run. Continuing in the roles they originated are Profiles ensemble members Eric Burgher, Darrell W. Cox and Somer Benson and Jackson Challinor. The production has been extended for an additional seven weeks, through August 16, 2009, at Profiles Theatre, 4147 N. Broadway. Chicago's oldest cemetery is the backdrop for GRACELAND , the story of four lonely Chicagoans whose lives collide one August weekend while the Blue Angels airshow is in town.

As fighter jets buzz the skies from dusk till dawn, estranged brother and sister Sam and Sara try to make sense of their father's recent suicide. Sara's one night stand with Joe, an aging lothario, brings further trouble in the form of Joe's mercurial teenage son, Miles. GRACELAND is a World Premiere comedic drama about the loneliness of family, the tenderness of strangers and the unexpected benefits of bad decisions. Due to popular demand, Profiles will add Saturday matinees at 5:00 p.m., beginning July 11, 2009. Graceland's Playwright, Ellen Fairey, former native of Chicago, was asked to write a play for the 20th anniversary. As stated by Ms Fairey, "it wasn't difficult to have the setting at the oldest cemetery and of course watching the Blue Angels is exciting and we all know some disfunctional family. Throw it all together and mix it up and then I had to sit down for an ending." I hope you liked it." My reply was, " I love it!" The directing by Matthew Miller was outstanding. The casts consist of Cheryl Graeff, Jackson Challinor and the Profiles ensemble Somer Benson, Eric Burgher and Darrell W. Cox. Tickets can be purchased through August 16, Profiles schedule is Thurs, Fri, Sat: 8:00 p.m. Sun: 7:00 p.m.Sat Matiness: 5:00 p.m. (beginning July 11, 2009). The location for Profiles Theatre is 4147 N. Broadway. Parking on the street is limited so my advice is to park for only $10-$12 at 4100 N. Clarendon(One block east of the theatre at the corner of Clarendon and Belle Plaine). Ticket prices are Thursdays, $30, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays are $35; Students and Senior Citizens receive a $5 discount on all performances. Group rates are available, buy online at www.profilestheatre.org or call (773) 549-1815

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FBI Honors 13 Local Police Officers for Heroic Actions in Kidnapping Investigation

Robert D. Grant, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) announced today that 13 local police officers have been recognized by FBI Director Robert H. Mueller, III for their heroic actions and the invaluable assistance they provided to the FBI in the investigation of a kidnapping and the attempted extortion of an Oak Lawn bank last year. The 13 officers were honored in a ceremony held on Friday at the Chicago FBI's headquarters.

The investigation that led to the awards presented Friday began on July 10, 2008, with the armed kidnapping of a Chicago man as he walked to his home on the city's south side. He was then transported to a residence in the 400 block of West 119th Street, and was held hostage at gunpoint.

The next morning, the kidnappers contacted the victim's fiancée and demanded that she take money from the Oak Lawn bank where she worked, in exchange for the safe release of the kidnapping victim. Instead of complying with the kidnapper's demands, she notified her supervisors, who in turn contacted law enforcement.

FBI Agents, assisted by local law enforcement officers, began investigating and arranged for the controlled delivery of money, purportedly funds taken from the bank. The package containing the money was placed under surveillance and when two of the kidnappers retrieved it, they were followed to the residence on West 119th Street.

After arriving at the residence, six individuals were arrested; one after a brief car chase. FBI Agents and local police officers had to forcibly gain entrance to the residence, where the remaining five subjects retreated to a second floor bedroom. Before they could take the remaining subjects into custody, the arresting agents and officers were forced to climb a flight of stairs under the threat of gunfire and in the process, were confronted by two attack dogs, which they were forced to neutralize.

The kidnapping victim was rescued, found tied to a chair on the first floor of the home. The victim had been beaten about the face and head, and suffered a gunshot wound to the leg.

In announcing the presentation of these awards, Mr. Grant commended all of the Officers and FBI Agents involved in this investigation. Said Mr. Grant "The bravery and dedication to duty exhibited on July 10, 2008 led not only to the safe rescue of a kidnapping victim, but the arrest without loss of life of six armed kidnappers. The residents of the each of the communities whose officers were honored should be justly proud of these professional law enforcement officers who serve them daily."

Those recognized for their valor Friday were Deputies Jason O'Malley, John Kruswicki and Daniel Strong of the Cook County Sheriff's Police; Officer Glenn Tienstra of the Hickory Hills Police Department; Officers Dale Underwood and Michael Steurer of the Joliet Police Department; Detective Marty McGrath, Sergeant Dan Foley and Officers Charles Zylius, Joseph Schmidt, Brian Duffy, Jerry Vetter, and Steven McNeela of the Oak Lawn Police Department.

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Obituary

Lillian A. Raddatz nee Murphy, at age 80 years old. Was born in Chicago, IL. and lived in Evergreen Park, IL. Was the beloved wife of the late John; loving mother of Theresa [Michael], Tricia [Sonny], Phyllis [Andy], Charles [Katie], John [Lita], Frederick [Beth], James [Shirley], and Steven [Diana]. Fond sister of Robert Murphy, cherished grandmother and great grandmother of many Adoptive Mother of Patty Angerhofer. Dearest friend of Harry Mitchell. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

Lillian A Raddatz was at Kosary Funeral Home in Evergreen Park, IL. and then to chapel at St. Bernadette Church also in Evergreen Park, IL. for Mass of Christian Burial. Interment was at St. Mary Cemetery. For more information contact 708-499-3223.

In lieu of flowers, donations to American Cancer Society, appreciated.

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Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program and Title X Family Planning Program

MetroSouth Medical Center is proud to announce that we are a Medical Provider for the Research & Education Foundation of the Michael Reese Medical Staff's grant-funded Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP) and Title X Family Planning Program.

We are now able to offer reproductive health and cancer screenings for uninsured and underinsured women as part of our enhanced women's reproductive health services. Through our bilingual (English/Spanish) and trilingual (English/Mandarin/Cantonese) staff, we also provide breast and cervical cancer awareness outreach education and workshops in the community.

Reproductive health services provided include:

- Physical exam with clinical breast exam and Pap smears
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- Mammograms for women 40 and above (under 40 years if clinically indicated)
- Counseling and education including abstinence

The IBCCP and Title X Family Planning Clinic is located in the MetroSouth Doctors Pavilion in Suite 4A. Call 708-489-7940 for additional information or to schedule an appointment.

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Far South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 13

July 7, 2009

Oak Forest City Council approves request to build an automatic car wash facility

On June 23, the Oak Forest City Council approved a request by Tower CarWash, located at 5323 W. 159th Street, to add an automatic car wash bay to its existing facilityto better serve its customers.

"The addition makes sense," said Community Development Director Adam Dotson. "Our community has been without an automatic car wash since Minute Man car wash closed in 2006. I think residents will be pleased once all of the improvements are completed."

In addition to the automatic car wash bay, Tower will stripe its existing bays, provide ad-ditional landscaping, install new signage, construct new brick façade, enclose its dumpster, and build a six-foot fence along the east property line in between the addition and the south property line.

Also, a "right turn only" sign has been installed at the east curb cut off at 159th Street and the curb has been reconfigured to create a "right turn only" lane.

"We're going to closely monitor the traffic pattern to ensure public safety," Dotson added."If any problems arise, we'll work with the property owner to alleviate them."

The Oak Forest City Council also approved a request by RSC & Associates, the master developer of the Gateway Project, to amend its special use permit tobuild one retail building instead of two near the rear of the property at the northwest corner of159th Street and Cicero Avenue. The 9,558-square-foot building will accommodate multipletenants, including a sit-down restaurant and a coffee shop with a drive-thru.

"Originally, we planned to have four commercial outlots, now we'll have three," said Community Development Director Adam Dotson. "Overall, this new plan will be more efficientand increase our square footage."

Construction of the retail building is expected to begin this year. Once complete, the Gateway Development will include more than 50,000 square feet of new retail and restaurantspace and 78 residential units.

American Legion Auxiliary Delegates attend State Convention

The Annual Illinois State Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary will be held in Springfield , Illinois from July 9 thru July 11, 2009 . Four delegates from Evergreen Park American Legion Auxiliary Post 854 will attend. Delegates are Roberta Cirantineo, Darlene Hudson, Dian Kinahan, and Mary Alice Stalzle. For more information about the Auxiliary and membership, please contact Dian Kinahan, 708-229-2129.

Tinley Park received Police and Fire awards

A representative from the American Legion Post # 615 attended the June 23 Tinley Park Board of Trustees meeting and presented the 2009 Police and Fire Department awards. The Fire Department award was presented to Lieutenant Walt Vander Veen and the Police Department award was presented to Officer Keith Sullivan. Mayor Zabrocki also welcomed home Private Alexander Walters.

Other highlights: the board approved a quitclaim deed for two storm water detention ponds in the Brook Side Marketplace development. In August 2004, the village entered into an annexation agreement with Ryan Development Company for the development. As part of the annexation and development agreement, the village committed to two storm water detention ponds upon completion of the naturalized vegetation system. These ponds have been reviewed and recommended for acceptance by the public works department. The village attorney reviewed the title commitment and the quitclaim deed provided by Ryan Development as well as a completed maintance acceptance agreement with the public works department for the land transfer.

The board concurred with the recommendation of the village staff and awarded a contract for the 2009 concrete flatwork and curb replacement program to the lowest bidder Carrera Concrete of Elk Grove Village for $81,772.50, which is $8,227.50 lower than the budgeted amount.

The following block party requests were approved: August 1 at 8921 Catalpa Court from 11:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.; August 1 at 16601 Hunter Trail from Noon to 10:30 p.m; August 5 at 17625 Lilac Lane from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. and August 22 at 9103 Kinsale Drive from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. A request from the Family Outreach Program to conduct a fundraiser on September 4th and 5th was also approved.

Orland Park Chamber awarded scholarships

The Chamber awarded three $1,000 scholarships to high school seniors whose parents own or are employed by current Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce members. The scholarships were awarded based on community service involvement, school performance and activity involvement and consideration of employment during the school year. "In addition to volunteering their time in the community, scholarship applicants had successfully maintained a level of excellence in their school work. A great majority of the students had also been employed part-time." Corradino says."

Lindsay attended Victor J. Andrew High School in Tinley Park and was involved in cheerleading, Class Council and National Honor Society as well as contributing to the Homecoming and Prom Steering Committees.

Lindsay plans on attending Eastern Illinois University in the fall to study Nursing. "In January, my Honors Anatomy class spent a weekend at Northern Illinois University at a Cadaver Camp. After that weekend I was certain that nursing was my career path." Lindsay reflects.

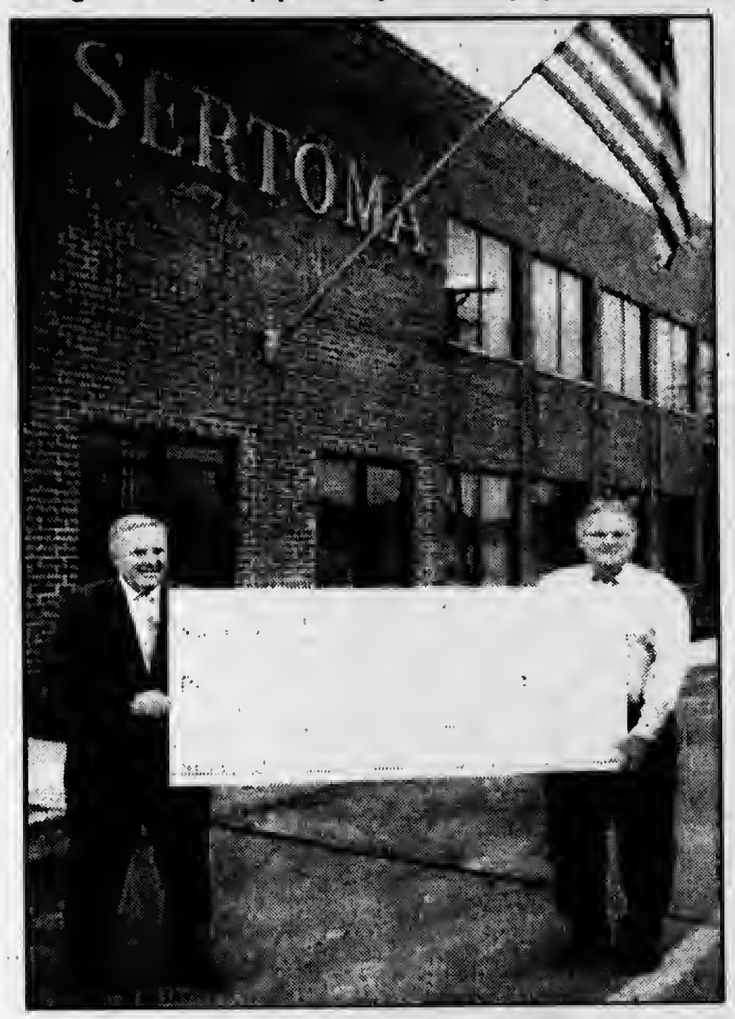
Christopher Donald Brodecki attended Amos Alonzo Stagg High School in Palos Hills and was an active member of many of the school bands. He was a member of the National Honor Society and played junior varsity and varsity tennis. Christopher has chosen to further his education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and will be majoring in Accounting.

Leah Nicole Hollaway

Leah attended Carl Sandburg High School in Orland Park. She was active in sports throughout high school including basketball and badminton. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council and the Pep Club and served on the Homecoming Committee. Leah has been accepted at Loyola University in the fall and plans on majoring in Chemistry with a future career path of becoming a dentist. The scholarships were presented to the students at a special reception held on Thursday, June 4. The reception was held at the Orland Park Area Chamber of Com-merce office and was at-tended by the recipients and their families as well as current Chamber members and dignitaries.

Orland Park mayor attends Centennial concert

Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin and his wife, Pat attended The Burnham Plan Centennial Reception and Concert held June 19, 2009 at Millennium Park . Pictured with Mayor McLaughlin and his wife are Daniel Burnham's great, great grandnieces Karen and Kirsten Burnham of Pennsylvania .



Chicago Southland CVB assists Sertoma Centre

Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau President/CEO Jim Garrett (left) presented a $640 check to Sertoma Centre Executive Director Gus van den Brink for support of Sertoma's programs for disabled adults. Sertoma Center operates two facilities in Alsip providing vocational training and other services for its clients, and operates the "Good As New" Thrift Store in Matteson.

Sertoma Centre holds an event at Bicentennial Park

Sertoma Centre presents State Representative Al Riley's Jazz in the Park for Charity 2009 on Saturday July 26th, 2009. The event will take place at Bicentennial Park in Olympia Fields from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tickets are available for $50.00 a person, and can be purchased from Sertoma Centre's Melanie Jones, 708-371-9700 x 206. For more information, go to www.jazzintheparkforcharity.com

Saint Xavier Irish Studies Program at Orland Park Campus for 2009 Fall Semester

Examine your Irish culture and society as manifested in art, literature, history, film, language, music and dance. Saint Xavier University will offer classes in Irish Studies this Fall 2009 at the Chicago and Orland Park Campuses. Through this interdisciplinary program, students will explore Ireland's heritage through a study of its history, the Gaelic language, culture, and literature. Saint Xavier, which traces its roots to the Sisters of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland, will offer the five-course, non-credit certificate program through the School of Continuing and Professional Studies.

The courses offered are:Irish Women Writers: Contemporary Short Stories by Women from Ireland Ireland Since WWII (Ireland's War for Independence) Bill Clinton, Irish Soccer and Riverdance: Ireland's Coming of Age Gaelic Language Ireland's Culture. The cost is $185.00 per course or $300.00 for two courses ($70.00 discount)

To register or for a complete schedule and more information on Saint Xavier's Irish Studies program, please call 708-633-4711 or email casillas@sxu.edu. You can also learn more about the program by checking the website http://www.sxu.edu/Academic/Continuing/irish_studies.asp.

Attention Orland Park residents

The Village of Orland Park invites everyone to attend the Orland Park Grand Slam Event at the Wednesday, August 5th baseball game between the Chicago White Sox and the California Angels.

Specially priced tickets have been made available for this great summer outing which is open to all Orland Park residents, families, friends and more. Attendees need not live or work in Orland Park to take advantage of these discounted tickets to see the Chicago White Sox.

Tickets may be ordered on line or by mail using the official order form. Show your community spirit by joining the Village of Orland Park at the ol' ball park for an exciting evening of White Sox baseball! Download an official ticket order form at the Village website.

Crisis Center of South Suburbia's Annual Golf Outing

The Event Sponsor: William F. Mahar, Inc. - Government Affairs Consultant Event to be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2009 at Silver Lake CC. Join us for a day filled with fun starting with a shot gun start at 9:00 on the North Course.

Ticket price of $150 includes a continental breakfast, cook out lunch, refreshments, contest holes, and a cook out dinner. Golf only tickets are also available for $100. Don't golf come on out and enjoy the dinner for only $50. We also have several different levels of sponsorships available for you to promote your busi-ness... how about a hole sponsorship for $150 or better yet two hole spon-sorships for $200.

For further information or to purchase tickets contact Janice at jlaging@crisisctr.org or at 708-429-7255, ext. 126. Or view our website at:www.crisisctr.org.

All proceeds benefit the Crisis Center for South Suburbia a non-profit community organization that provides emergency shelter and other essential services for individuals and families victimized by domestic violence.

Orland Park Farmer's Market offers great vendors

The Village of Orland Park Farmers' Market opened its eighth season on the grounds of the Village Center, 14700 South Ravinia Avenue and will continue through October 2nd.

Over 30 vendors will be selling fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers and plants, gourmet food items, oils, bakery goods, crafts, jewelry, baskets, doggie biscuits, household and personal items, sunglasses, purses and more. Farmer Frank's barbecue lunches featuring hot dogs, hamburgers and cheeseburgers, brats and chicken sandwiches along with a bag of chips, a drink and a cookie are available to purchase at a nominal price through August.

Several community organizations sponsor the weekly lunches. Proceeds from the lunches benefit these community organizations. Kids will be able to enjoy the free moon jump, balloons and the Orland Park Library Story Time. New to the market this year is the village's "Green Tent." Information will be available on how you can help the environment within your community.

There will be information on Village "green" activities, craft projects, the ComEd Community Challenge and occasional demonstrations. The Open Lands of Orland Park Commission will be taking orders for the purchase of rain barrels. Visitors will be able to enter the Village Green Challenge to earn points to use in a drawing for valuable prizes.

The market will be open every Friday (except July 3 and July 31) rain or shine, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., May 29 through October 2, 2009. For more information, please call 708/403-6140.

The Orland Park Theatre Troup present Broadway Musical Review

The Orland Park Theatre Troup presents "Broadway Musical Review" Dinner Theatre will be at the Orland Chateau on July 12 and 19 at 12:30.

Tickets are $40 and include a complete dinner and great show. Enjoy the great music of Rogers & Hammerstein, Gershwin, Sondheim and more.

Come for an afternoon of Broadway's finest. Advance tickets are available at the Village of Orland Park Recreation & Parks Department Franklin Loebe Recreation Center, 14650 S. Ravinia Avenue, Orland Park.

Call 708-403-7275 for more information.

Join Us!
Saturday, July 11, 2009
115 Bourbon Street, Merrionette Park, IL

This One's For Gina!

3PM-8PM
Food, Raffles & Live Music

Adult Admission: $25 - Children 12 and under: $20

On December 6, 2008, Chicago Police Sergeant and Mt Greenwood resident, Gina Dwyer-Meliska suffered cardiac arrest. Although she was fortunate to receive CPR moments after she collapsed, Gina was without oxygen for an extended period and has been in a state of minimal consciousness ever since.

Gina is a remarkable person who has always given 110% to her family, neighbors and fellow police officers. Please join us in a benefit honoring her as we strive to give back to Gina and her family.

For more information about the benefit please visit: www.thisonesforgina.com
Questions: call Bob Mizera at 312-296-4853 or Maggie Engstrom at 773-491-0968
To purchase raffle tickets online, please visit: www.thisonesforgina-sales.com

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 13 July 7, 2009

About Water's Edge Golf Club

Water's Edge G.C. is a highly-acclaimed championship-style golf course located in Worth, Ill. The entire facility is not only the focal point for the Village, but the property itself is owned by the Village. The championship golf course was designed by Rick Robbins with PGA Consultant Gary Koch and opened in 1999. The clubhouse boasts a very spacious pro shop and "The Edge" Bar & Grill. The restaurant offers breakfast, lunch and dinner menus and is open 7 days per week. The entire menu is available and served all day.

Water's Edge Golf Club will also be hosting numerous non-golf events throughout the 2009 season. Events include:

* Luau Friday, July 31
* Elvis Night Fri., Aug. 28
* Gloria Shannon Blues Night Friday, Sept. 25
* Edgetober Fest Saturday, Oct. 17

Annual picnic for Sts. Joachim & Anne Armenian Church

Saints Joachim & Anne Armenian Apostolic Church located at 12600 South Ridgeland in Palos Heights will have its annual PICNIC on Sunday, July 12, 2009 starting at noon.

Delicious shish kebabs (lamb or chicken) with scrumptious homemade Armenian pilaf and tossed salad will be available for purchase along with cold drinks and watermelon. There will be a pastry table for you to purchase take home items like Armenian breads, cookies and boeregs, plus our favorite American desserts!!

There will be pony rides available for the children (certain weight and height restrictions and fee apply) plus a jumping jack.

Hear live Armenian music by Sark Antaramian Band, enjoy a live performance of the Hamzkayeen Armenian Dancers, eat delicious Armenian food and join in the Church tour to learn a little more about that small country far away, the home of Mt. Ararat and Noah's Ark - A R M E N I A.

For additional information call the Church office at 708 388 4940.

SHARED HOUSING

PLOWS Council on Aging, a non-profit senior agency, has an intergenerational program for singles, widows, widowers, seniors or students who might be interested in sharing living space, expenses and household duties with another person. The obvious advantage is to reduce the cost of housing, but other benefits include companionship and security.

PLOWS' staff members interview home providers and home seekers in order to introduce potentially compatible people for the purpose of possibly sharing a home. All homes are located within Palos, Lemont, Orland or Worth townships and Burbank. One person in the match must be 62 years of age or older. All participants must be able to live independently. No care giving is required and there is no fee for participation. Many have found this to be the alternative that permits them to stay in their own community and maintain their independence.

For more information, call PLOWS Shared Housing at 708-361-0219.

Pictured left to right: Carol Kane, daughter in law; Chicago Ridge Mayor Eugene Siegel; Kathy Kane, daughter in law; Jean Winter, daughter; Mary Kaye Keyes, granddaughter and in front is Jean Kane, 100 years young.

Chicago Ridge resident turns 100 years

On June 22, 2009, the Chicago Ridge Friendship Club celebrated the 100th birthday of one of its members, Chicago Ridge resident Jean Kane. Jean, who was joined by family members, was presented with a bouquet of fresh flowers from Mayor Eugene Siegel. The Friendship Club members also sang "Happy Birthday" and presented Jean with a birthday cake.

Ms. Kane is an extremely active and involved senior who does not look a day over 69. Everyone in Chicago Ridge wishes her continued good health and congratulate Jean on reaching this wonderful milestone birthday.

Golf for Park Lawn

On Monday, July 20 th, Park Lawn, a non profit for individuals with developmental disabilities, will hold the Twenty-Fourth Annual A Day in the Sun Golf Invitational at Prestwick Country Club in Frankfort.

On the course, golfers will compete for closest to the pin, longest drives, and low gross and nets in both handicap and non-handicap divisions. The mulligan will be available for golfers looking to re-take a shot to improve their overall score. After golf, Park Lawn will hold a cocktail reception for golf enthusiast and non-golfers. This will be followed by dinner and awards where golf participants can meet all of the individuals with developmental disabilities that benefit from this event. A Golf Invitational Raffle is also available for golfers and non-golfers. The grand prize is $2,000, 2nd prize$1,000 and 3rd is $500 plus additional prizes. The drawing will be held at the golf outing on July 20th. Tickets are being sold at $50 each.

For more information on participating, becoming a sponsor, or purchasing the raffle tickets please call the Park Lawn Development Office at 708-425-6867

Chicago Ridge approves demolition of firehouse

The village board at the June 16 Chicago Ridge Board of Trustees meeting approved the demolition of Firehouse Number Two at 10258 Southwest Highway for $28,800. This amount will also cover the removal of an underground tank. A fire department request to purchase items for the new firehouse was also approved. The items are as follows: 20 gear racks for $500; a clothes dryer for $471.95; and a SCBA Compressor for $38,955. The new firehouse is located on Virginia Avenue in the Industrial Park.

A dedication ceremony will be in held in July - the date has not yet been announced

The board approved a resolution for an honorary street sign designating Oxford Avenue from 108th to 109th streets as Father Paul Burak Way.

Fr. Burak will be leaving Our Lady of the Ridge Parish after 17 years of service as pastor and will assume the position of pastor at St. Michaels Parish in Orland Park. A farewell party was held on June 20th on the parish grounds.

Janet Becker was reappointed to the police pension board for an additional two-year term and Debbie Aguinaga was appointed as secretary of the Planning and Zoning Board. Ridge Fest 09 will take place from July 23 - 26.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

B-MAC EDITION

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 13

July 7, 2009

SSC student Lisa Lyon becomes licensed professional court reporter

Court Reporting Open House scheduled for July 21, 2009.

The faculty of the South Suburban College Court Reporting Program is proud to announce that Lisa Lyon has passed the Illinois Certified Shorthand Reporter Examination (CSR) to become a licensed professional court reporter in the state of Illinois.

The CSR is a very demanding, nerve-wracking examination which only true speed champions can pass. One portion of this multi-section exam requires candidates to pass a five-minute two-voice speed test at 225 words per minute with 95 percent accuracy. Candidates are allowed only 57 errors out of the 1,125 total words to achieve 95 percent accuracy. In order to write 225 words per minute, students must write 3.75 words every second.

"To bring her speed up to this level, Lisa was tremendously focused and worked extremely hard, practicing for thousands of hours," said Don Dalton, coordinator of the Court Reporting Program. "Among her many tremendous accomplishments while in school, Lisa passed a 240 wpm test which breaks down to four words per second."

Lisa Lyon is a graduate of Stagg High School in Palos Hills. Thanks to a wide open job market in court reporting in the Chicago area, she took immediate employment at Cronin Reporting Service in Wheaton, Illinois.

Reporters are in high demand and may work in areas such as judicial reporting, broadcast captioning, steno interpreting and web casting. In addition to the excellent earnings, court reporters have opportunities for travel, exposure to high-profile cases, and self-employment. Court reporting has always been a recession-proof profession as the wheels of justice must continue to turn even in difficult economic times. Program graduates are able to choose from many positions after they pass their certification exams.

All of SSC's Court Reporting classes are held at SSC's University and College Center in Oak Forest, Illinois. A Court Reporting Open House will be held at the UCC on Tuesday, July 21, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

The next round of Court Reporting classes will begin at the start of the fall semester on August 24, 2009, with daytime and evening sections offered.

For more information, please contact Don Dalton at 708-596-2000 x3216

Midlothian Public Library introduces rescued animals to the public

Kim Schilling with Animals for Awareness shows an alligator rescued from a private home to a packed house at the Midlothian Public Library on June 17, at the kickoff event for the summer reading program: "Read on the Wild Side." Approximately 400 people attended as Kim and her assistant, Kathleen Jager, presented a snake, lynx cubs, a tortoise, a hedgehog, a fox and other wild animals sheltered by her organization. For more information, see their website at http://www.animalsforawareness.org/.

Alsip establishes line of credit

The village board at a recent meeting of the board of trustees approved an ordinance authorizing the issuance of a promissory note as well as establishing a line of credit of $1,000,000.00. An ordinance providing current wages for public works employees was also approved as well as a request authorizing payment of certain health care related expenses from the village insurance fund.

Other highlights: The board approved a revised proposal from Kane McKenna Capital, Inc to provide financial advisor services related to the 2009 Road and Bridge Bond issuance and the 2009 Heritage Bond issuance. A letter of agreement to retain Chapman and Cutler as bond counsel for the issuance of bonds was also approved.

A public works request to go out to bid for the 2009 annual side walk replacement program was approved as well as request to go out to bid for the replacement of the public works overhead garage doors. A request to hire three summer helpers was also approved.

A request to award a contract to Sub Zero Refrigeration - the sole bidder - for equipment and materials - to install ground air conditioner systems - along with the removal and disposal of three existing roof top units for $26,215.00 was approved. A request to purchase two new police department vehicles which will be paid out of the sale of four older fleet vehicles was approved as well as a request from the VFW Post # 450 to hold a raffle drawing on August 2 at the Alsip Street Fair.

Bremen highway budget puts funds back on the road

Szabo was elected Bremen Township highway commissioner in April, a job he previously held from 2001 to 2005. He returned to the post this year after running on a slate with the Bremen Tax Cut Party, which swept all township positions in the spring election.

The township board of trustees unanimously approved Szabo's highway department budget during its meeting Monday evening. Szabo said his focus in drafting the new budget was fully on the primary function of a township highway department: road maintenance and ditch/culvert cleaning and installation.

His budget of approximately $700,000 is similar to last year's budget, but Szabo said he shifted about 25 percent of the budget away from things like administrative and legal costs and toward his department's primary responsibility of maintenance on unincorporated township-maintained roadways.

The highway department has two full-time and one part-time employee in addition to Szabo. There will be no layoffs in the department as a result of the new budget, and projected legal fees will be reduced by half. Additional funds earmarked for salaries also will not be used, and shifted instead to several road maintenance projects.

"A major project on our agenda this summer is Luna Avenue, which will get a complete resurfacing as well as comprehensive ditch and culvert work," Szabo said. Luna Avenue is located about 140th Street east of Central Avenue.

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Your Suburban Newspaper for 36 years

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VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 36 Number 2

July 21, 2009

Left to right are Father Perez Knights of Columbus Council 1444 2009 scholarship awardees: Claire Six of Scottsdale, Chicago: Rich Houlihan of Oak Lawn, and Lizzy Kosteck of Orland Park. Each received a $1,000 scholarship to help defray their tuition at a Catholic high school this school year.

Knights of Columbus awards scholarships

Father Perez Knights of Columbus Council 1444 on Chicago's Southwest Side awarded three high school bound students with $1,000 scholarships each to help cover the tuition for their freshman year at a parochial school.

Rich Houlihan, a graduate of Catherine of Alexandria Parish in Oak Lawn and son of Tom and Kelly Houlihan will attend St. Rita of Cascia High School where he plans to play basketball, volleyball and participate with the ski club.

Lizzy Kosteck who graduated from St. Michael Elementary School, is the daughter of Liz and Barry Kosteck from Orland Park. Lizzy will enter Mother McCauley High School this fall. The all-honors student hopes to play basketball and soccer, gain entrance to the University of Notre Dame and become a lawyer. Her brother Joe was a Perez Council scholarship recipient last year.

Clare Six, the daughter of Charles and Kerry Six, was the recipient of the third scholarship. Clare graduated from Adlai E. Stevenson School and will attend Marist High School beginning in August, The all-honors student intends to play basketball and vollcyball for thc Red Hawks. She and Houlihan arc cousins!

The threc awardces earned the scholarship by outscoring 8 other recent grade school graduatcs during a proctored exam in the council's club house on May 9th.

"It's a privilcge and a plcasurc to honor well-rounded students of this caliber with scholarships," said Grand Knight Rich Doylc. "The scholarships rcflect thesc young peoplc's abilitics to focus on the important things in life and the support they havc rcceived from their families, friends and teachers."

Since 2000, Father Pcrcz Council has awarded $27,000 in scholarships to boys and girls matriculating to Catholic high schools. The council will celebrate its 100th anniversary of service to the Church, the family and the community on November 7th, 2009 at Gaelic Park.

Protecting your money

By Jason Alderman

"If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

How many times have you heard that expression? Even in favorable economic times, otherwise cautious people can be duped by get-rich-quick schemes or investments that promise unrealistic returns. But when times get hard, folks increasingly fall for these scams in their quest to make ends meet.

Many people, feeling overwhelmed by the complexity of the subject matter, hire a financial planning professional for advice. However, as recent headlines have shown, even highly regarded investment experts sometimes tum out to be con artists simply peddling the latest Ponzi scheme.

So how can you protect and grow your assets and plan for your financial future?

First, educate yourself. There's a wealth of information available online, at libraries, bookstores or your local community college. Get grounded in basic financial concepts such as: ·The importance of saving for short- and long-term goals ·Managing debt ·Creating and living within a budget ·How banking, credit and loan products work ·Why credit scores are so important ·Planning for unexpected events Helpful rcsources include: ·MyMoney.gov, the U.S. government's website dedicated to teaching the basics about financial education (www.mymoney.gov)

·JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, a clearinghouse of materials designed for children (www.jumpstartclearinghouse.org).

·AARP, which advises and advocates for people over 50 in all aspects of their personal and financial lives (www.aarp.org) ·Practical Money Skills for Life, Visa Inc.'s free personal financial management site, featuring interactive tools, articles and other resources for adults, children and educators (www.practicalmoneyskills.com).

Don't go it alone. Why not form a book club/discussion group where you can share financial fears, missteps and success stories with mutually supportive friends? It's sometimes easier to digest information and make action plans together. A good place to start is by reading "The Difference: How Anyone Can Prosper in Even the Toughest Times," by best-selling author and "Today Show" finance editor Jean Chatzky.

Finally, don't rule out consulting with a financial planner. Even if you can't afford ongoing money-management services, consider hiring a third party temporarily to help you crystallize your financial goals and trouble-shoot areas where you may be lacking, such as retirement savings, estate planning or having adequate insurance protection. Many types of professionals call themselves financial planners but they don't all have the same training or specialties. Different groups that certify planners have their own credentialing requirements, regulators and ethical guidelines, but education and experience requirements vary.

If you don't have a trusted referral, go to the Financial Planning Association, the National Association of Personal Financial Adviso, and the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards. If necessary, interview several candidates until you find someone you trust. Ask for references, and make sure he or she is registered with the North American Securities Administrators Association (www.nasaa.org). Just as we consult doctors about our health, sometimes having a professional do a financial check-up can pay off as well. Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. Sign up for his free monthly e-Newsletter at www.practicalmoneyskills.com/newsletter.

Oak Lawn has new fire chief

The village board at the July 14 Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting welcomed George Sheets as the new Fire Chief. Sheets began his 27-year career of fire service in Michigan and Wisconsin and have previously held the office of Fire Chief. Sheets also has a masters degree in emergency management.

Other highlights: A presentation was made by the Hay Group, a Philadelphia-based human resources consulting firm, hired by the village to study payroll for union and non union employees. The firm compared job descriptions and pay grades with thirteen other municipalities as well as similar jobs in the private sector. They concluded that the village paid middle management lower than many of the comparisons. Blue-collar workers received a comparable rate of pay according to the study, however the firm didn't factor in benefits for any of the comparisons. The Hay Group made the following suggestions: reduce the annual cost of living raise to 2 percent; reduce raises in step increases for long time employees and cease the automatic pay increases for non-union employees; adopt a "pay for performance" program where increases would be determined on merit; other suggestions included increasing the pay for employees who are underpaid; freeze pay increases for those earning over the study findings and reduce job titles and descriptions to 14 from the current 26. The findings were accepted for consideration however officials were unclear why benefit packages were not factored into the study.

A garbage rate increase was announced. The village's four-year contract with Veolia Waste Haulers has a provision, which allows the company to increase rates if operating costs were to increase. The cost of dumping in landfills as well as gas prices was sighted for the increase. The fee will be $62.34 per quarter and the senior fee for those over age 65 will be $57.03 per quarter.

The board approved a Public Works request to award a contract to O & N Engineering - Development of Chicago, the low bidder at $51,500.50 for electrical retrofits for the Metra Parking Tower. The project is the result of an energy audit that was completed last year for the village through a grant from the Illinois Department of Competence and Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Energy and Recycling. Based on the audit the village is slated to save 512.022 kWh annually which would result in an energy grant rebate of approximately $40,961.76. The cost of the project to the village will be $10,538.74 after grant funds according to Steve Barrett, Director of Public Works.

Oak Lawn Kiwanis

Cook County Board President, Todd Stroger, will speak to the Oak Lawn Kiwanis, Thursday, July 23 following a 6:30 p.m. dinner at Fox's Restaurant & Pub, 9240 S. Cicero Ave., Oak Lawn .

Judy Gonsch, coordinator, announced that President Stroger will share his expertise on the workings of his office.

President Stroger was elected President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners in November of 2006 for a four year term. Previously he was elected to five terms as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives. In 2001 he was appointed by Mayor Daley to serve as Alderman of the 8th Ward. He attended St. Ignatius High School and received his bachelor's degree from Xavier University in New Orleans .

IL GOP Delegation stays neutral

The Illinois Republican congressional delegation has decided to stay neutral in the pending Senate primary fight between Rep. Mark Kirk and state party chairman Andy McKenna, according to an informed Illinois GOP source. Kirk and McKenna huddled with the delegation on Thursday and there was considerable consternation toward Kirk for his recent vote in favor of President Obama's climate change bill. (Kirk was one of just eight House Republicans to support the bill.)

Kirk is likely to enjoy the backing, whether public or private remains to be seen, of the national party apparatus, and several GOP strategists suggested that McKenna will eventually drop out of the race to help boost the party's chances of winning the seat currently held by retiring Sen. Roland Burris (D)

Prospect Federal presents author

To celebrate President Lincoln's bi-centennial anniversary and to learn more about him, the "Golden Eagle" club of Prospect Federal, will present Don C White, author of *CIVIL WAR* during its July meeting.

Mr. White's presentation "Lincoln from the wilderness to the White House" will take place on July 29th, Wed., 10:00am, at the Prospect Federal Savings Bank office, 11139 S. Harlem Avenue in Worth.

For more information about the presentation, or the club, please call Stasy Korres on Tuesdays or Thursdays at (708) 261-8000 .

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

The Country is out of Balance Misinformation is the Cause

Our economy is unstable, authoritarian politicians reign unchecked, and interest groups replace communities for our primary allegiance—the causes are embedded deeply in how we have been misinformed. Systems out of Balance: How Misinformation Hurts the Middle Class, by Kirk D. Sinclair, PhD, serves as both a guidebook for an informed citizenry and as a polemic calling us to take back control of our social systems. The middle class has been both the misinformed victim and the gullible villain; we must shake both roles to become the necessary vanguard for restoring balance.

Kirk Sinclair applies empirical criteria for good and bad data to form a citizen's guide for information and misinformation. Based on a lifetime of studies, research and instruction related to science and epistemology, Sinclair brings a new approach to "Social Science," analyzing our social systems—economic, political and cultural—as an ecologist would analyze a natural ecosystem. Through this approach Sinclair reveals how our social systems are out of balance, and how misinforming the public is the ultimate cause.

Systems out of Balance explains why:

·Free markets reward merit, but our economy reinforces greed.

·Democracy serves wisdom, but our politics promote authoritarianism.

·Communities seek harmony, but our culture features idolatry.

·Misinformation steers us towards greed, authoritarianism and idolatry.

·The use of vanity, cynicism and fear benefits a few at the expense of many.

Kirk Sinclair distinguishes between what is natural about human social systems and how culture changes that for better and worse. He draws from his experiences with fifteen thousand miles of wilderness backpacking expeditions in addition to his research. From these experiences, Sinclair makes important distinctions between truly natural rights and those liberties that can be provided only as government entitlements, wielded as tools of persuasion.

Systems out of Balance contrasts:

·Independence of labor with an entitlement to property.

·Independence of thought with an entitlement for security.

·Free will to belong with an entitlement of privacy.

If the invasion of Iraq and the market crisis of 2008 taught us nothing else, we must learn the importance of recognizing when we are being misinformed. Sinclair approaches complex and initially overwhelming concepts with the clear and thoughtful mind of a scientist. He scrutinizes, untangles, and exposes the issues, banishing doublespeak designed to make us complicit and encouraging us to step up and take responsibility for the systems that so dominate our lives. Sinclair provides tools for us to think critically, sifting through the information that bombards us daily and separating fact from misinformation.

With this collection of intelligent, comprehensive essays, Sinclair has broken down the problems many of us did not even know we had. *Systems out of Balance* will arm you with valuable knowledge and an increased understanding of our social systems, how they affect our lives, and what you can do to resist misinformation and restore balance to both life and country.

Kirk Sinclair is available for interviews and commentary. A media kit for Systems out of Balance is available from the author's web site, The Middle Class Forum, at www.middleclassforum.org.

Economic trends since the seventies, covered in Systems out of BalanceWealth disparity increased steadily from a low point in 1976. The financial sector grew at twice the rate of overall productivity. The ratio of wage supplements to traditional wages increased steadily. The ratio of median family and household incomes to GDP decreased steadily. The ratio of net dividends to wages increased dramatically. The ratio of tax on wages to tax on capital gains increased steadily. The ratio of privatized to socialized health costs increased steadily. The ratio of health and housing costs to median incomes increased dramatically. The ratio of household liabilities to income increased steadily. The ratio of savings to personal income went from about 10% to virtually zero. The ratio of bankruptcies to households increased dramatically. Think tanks have proliferated. Corporate media has consolidated. *Systems out of Balance* explains how the last two items relate to the others.

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About the Author

Kirk Sinclair lives in the same middle class house in the same middle class neighborhood he was raised in. He currently works as a GIS Manager for a nonprofit conservation organization and serves as an officer on the board of the Northwest Connecticut affiliate for Habitat for Humanity. Sinclair has awards for teaching, research, singing, writing and long-distance backpacking. Book Info: *SYSTEMS OUT OF BALANCE: How Misinformation Hurts the Middle Class;* Kirk D. Sinclair, PhD; Mill City Press, 2009; 563 pages; $25.95 (US); ISBN: 978-1934937914

Military News

Army Pfc. Edgar A. Sanchez has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

Sanchez is the son of Maria Sanchez of S. Kolin Ave., Midlothian, IL., and Oliverio Sanchez of W. Baseline Road, Tempe, Ariz.

Army National Guard Pvt. Douglas R. Ellis has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga. During the nine weeks of training, the soldier re-ceived training in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history, core values and tradition. Additional training included development of basic combat skills and battle-field operations and tactics, and experiencing use of various weapons and weap-ons defenses available to the infantry crewman.

He is the son of Deborah Ellis of Cour Saint Tropez, Palos Hills, Ill., and Douglas Ellis of Oak Lawn, IL

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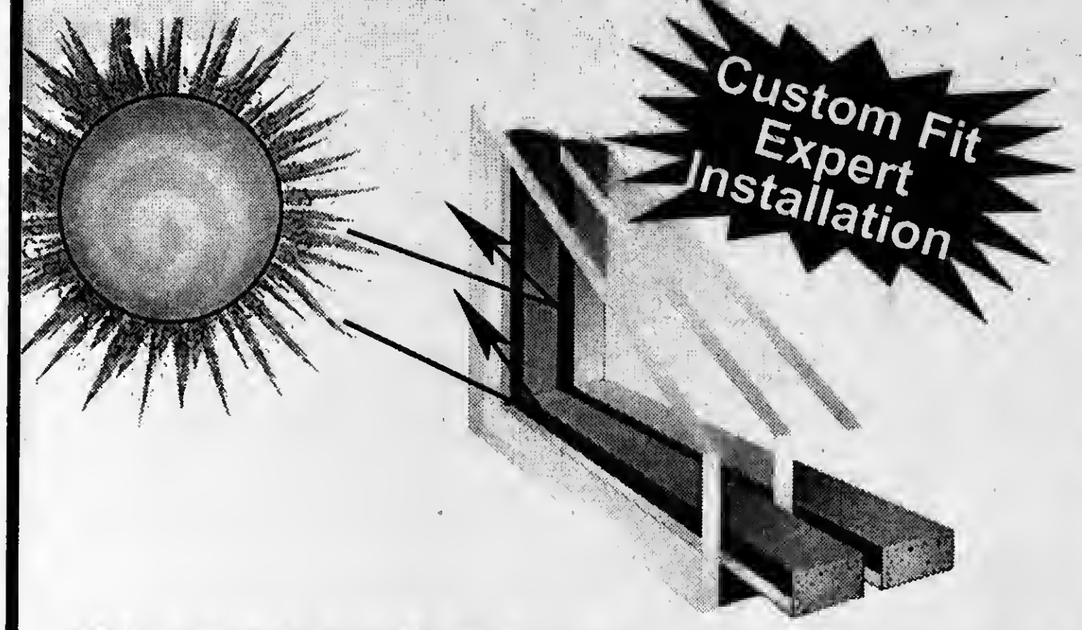

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Day out with Thomas™ 2009: The Hero of the Rails tour comes to the Illinois Railway Museum to save the day!

Thomas the Tank Engine™ To Visit August 14, 15, 16, 22 & 23, 2009

Union, Illinois – Thomas the Tank Engine™ is coming to save the day! Thomas, the beloved and courageous storybook engine, is set to roll into The Illinois Railway Museum for the Day Out With Thomas™ 2009: The Hero of the Rails Tour, presented by HIT Entertainment, a worldwide leader in children's entertainment, and sponsored by The LEGO Group. This fun-filled event offers preschoolers and their families the opportunity to take a ride with a 15-ton replica of Thomas the Tank Engine, star of the popular Thomas & Friends™ series. Children will ride along with their favorite hero on his latest adventure. The tour, now in its 14th year, will make stops in more than 40 US cities and is expected to welcome more than one million passengers in 2009.

WHO: Thomas the Tank Engine

WHAT: A 20-minute (approximate) ride with Thomas the Tank Engine

An opportunity to meet Sir Topham Hatt, Controller of The Railway

Activities for the whole family, including arts & crafts, storytelling, video viewing, live music UPDATE ACTIVITIES AS NEEDED Exclusive commemorative merchandise including a 2009 Day Out With Thomas passenger car, as well as a t-shirts, engineer caps, pennants, and more

WHEN: August 14, 15, 16, 22 & 23, 2009

TIME: 10:00 am thru 4:00 pm

WHERE: 7000 Olson Road - Union, Illinois

Tickets for Day Out With Thomas 2009: The Hero of the Rails Tour are on sale now and available by calling Ticketweb toll-free 866-468-7630, or by visiting www.ticketweb.com/thomas or irm.org Ticket prices are $18 plus tax for ages 2 and up (service charges and fee may apply).

For more information and directions contact the Illinois Railway Museum at 815-923-4000. For information on Thomas & Friends, visit www.thomasandfriends.com

American Red Cross asking for hosts for blood drives

With the unemployment rate at a 25-year high and businesses continually evaluating productivity in an effort to weather the economic storm, the local Red Cross Blood Services Region is reporting a drop in scheduled blood drives and subsequent donations this summer.

Fewer Scheduled Community Blood Drives From June through August 2009, the Heart of America Blood Services Region of the American Red Cross reports that approximately 13 blood drives have been cancelled by companies citing economic factors. Another 26 drives have reduced their donation goals for the same reason.

The net effect is approximately 619 fewer scheduled donations during the summer months, which are already challenging with many donors vacationing or busy with summer activities. As much as 80 percent of blood donations made through the American Red Cross are at blood drives at supporting organizations.

"Community organi-zations and businesses are tremendous supporters of the hospitals and patients served by the American Red Cross," said Jim Garrott, Donor Recruitment Direc-tor of the Heart of America Blood Services Region of the American Red Cross. "We understand the need of some long-time supporters to reprioritize blood drives to ensure their own viability. However, the need for blood is constant." To continue meeting patient needs in the community and nationwide, the American Red Cross invites stable organizations and busi-nesses to consider hosting one or more blood drives beginning this summer. New blood drive hosts and sponsor organizations will have a unique chance to make a vital contribution to healthcare in their communities.

How to Host a Blood Drive Organizations interested in learning more about hosting a blood drive are encouraged to contact the American Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (448-3543) and press option 4 or online at givebloodgivelife.org. Hosting a blood drive is a meaningful way to support healthcare in our communities and a great way to build relations within an organization. Fewer Summer Blood Donations When blood drives are cancelled, donors don't always reschedule for another blood drive. Even if one drive is cancelled, there are many other opportunities to give. The Red Cross encourages all eligible donors to give blood this summer. All blood types are needed – especially type O negative, B negative and A negative. How to Donate Blood Simply call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) or visit givebloodgivelife.org to make an appointment or for more information. A blood donor card or driver's license, or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Eligible donors must be at least 17 years old, or 16 years old with a signed Red Cross parental/guardian consent form where state permits, must weigh at least 110 pounds and be in general good health. About the American Red CrossGoverned by volunteers and supported by giving individuals and communities, the American Red Cross is the single largest supplier of blood products to hospitals throughout the United States . While local hospital needs are always met first, the Red Cross also helps ensure no patient goes without blood no matter where or when they need it. In addition to providing nearly half of the nation's blood supply, the Red Cross provides relief to victims of disaster, trains millions in lifesaving skills, serves as a communication link between U.S. military members and their families, and assists victims of international disasters or conflicts

Chicago Ridge Library hosts a food preservation program

The Chicago Ridge Public Library, 10400 Oxford Ave, will host the program Home Canning and Preserving on Monday, July 27 at 7:00 p.m. A master food preserver from the University of Illinois Extension will demonstrate traditional canning procedures and discuss the type of equipment necessary for proper food preservation. You will also learn about canning safety issues and where to locate recipe information. This program is free. Register at the library or by calling 708-423-7753.

Also on July 29th, the Chicago Ridge Public Library, 10400 Oxford Ave, is having an Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, July 29th at 7 p.m. Dave Thomas, an Elvis impersonator will entertain.

This program is free and registration is not required. Contact the library at 708-423-7753 for more information.

Office of Senior Services in Evergreen Park has a Luncheon & Theatre Trip

Join OCS Day Trip to Theatre at the Center, (Munster IN) to see **Footloose** (the musical) on Wednesday July 29, 2009. Cost $72 (Motorcoach Bus) Depart from OCS, 3450 W 97th Street at 10am. Return 5:30pm. Please call 422-8776 - ASAP.

Attention all Medical Centers, Nursing Homes, Senior Centers, Dentists and Eye Care Centers, Chiropractors, Foot Dr's, Medical Practice Dr's, Health Care Centers, Retirement Homes, Caregivers, Massage Therapists, Fitness Centers, and more.
Contact Linda for the Medical and Health and Senior issues. Call for details about our next issues, call 312-624-8996.

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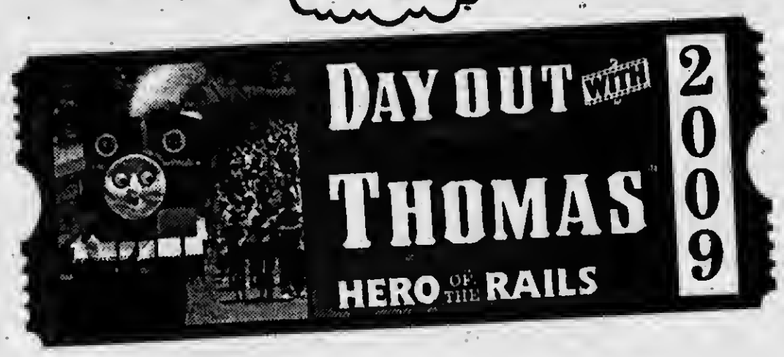

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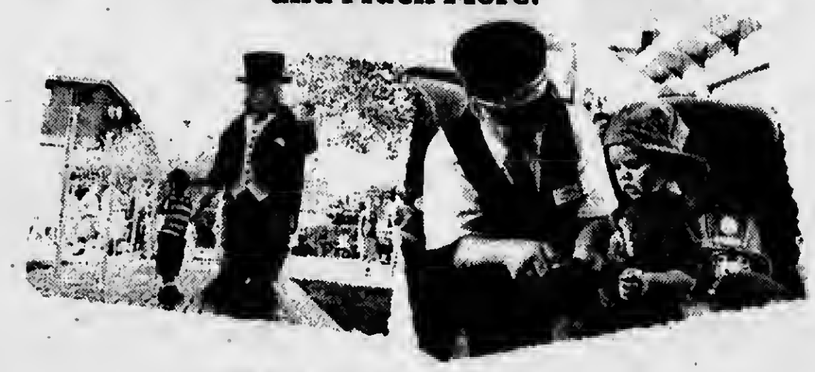

Illinois Railway Museum
7000 Olson Rd., Union, IL
August 14, 15, 16, 22, 23

For tickets and information, visit www.ticketweb.com/dowt or call 866.468.7630

Tickets are $18 for ages 2 and up. Advance purchase is recommended. Ticket sales are final. Events are rain or shine.

www.thomasandfriends.com/dowt

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- Thursday -
Infinity
16 Candles

- Friday -
The BoDeans
The Hat Guys

- Saturday -
Ryan "The King" Pellon

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The Duke Band

Livin' It Up

- Sunday -

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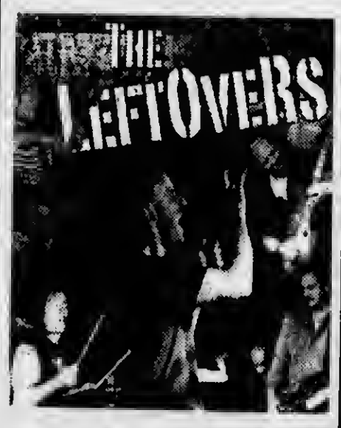
Rico Quinn

Marrakesh Express

The Leftovers



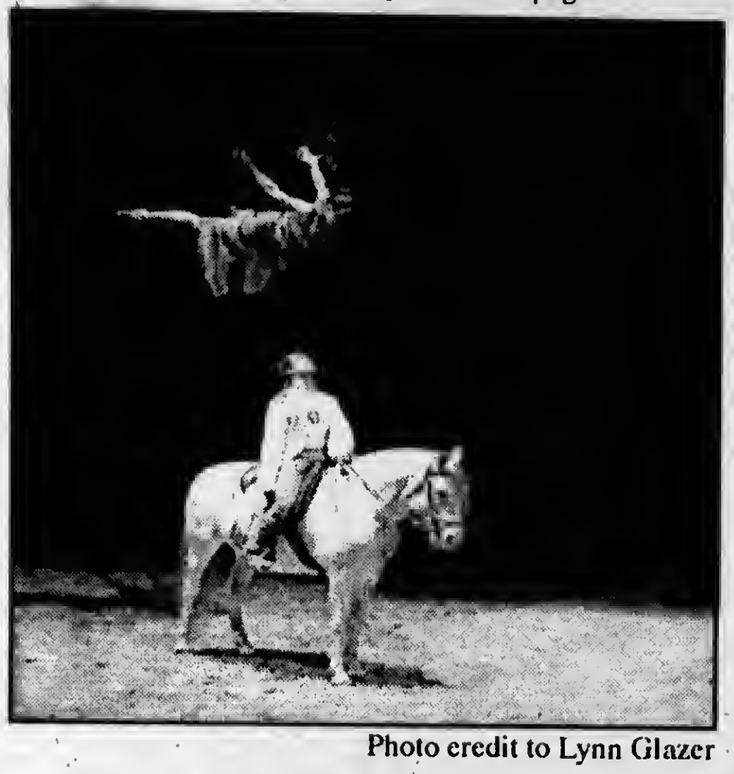


Photo eredit to Lynn Glazer

Cavalia extends its stay in Chicago

Cavalia, the speetaeular equestrian odyssey, has extended its run in Chieago's West Loop and will now play through Sunday, Aug. 2. Cavalia will be presented under its towering White Big Top, whieh is pitehed in Chicago's stylish West Loop at Raeine and Jackson.

This multimedia extravaganza brings together more than 100 two and four-legged artists in a visually exquisite, inspiring and poetie multi-diseiplinary spectaeular that pushes the boundaries of what is possible between humans and horses. The mix of horses, aerobats, aerialists, daneers, riders and musicians transports spectators to dream-like settings while celebrating the timeless bond between horses and humans.

Normand Latourelle, founder and artistie direetor of Cavalia, is the visionary behind the show. Through Latourelle's passionate vision, Cavalia revolutionizes equestrian and performing arts. Latourelle has become renowned for adventurous, mammoth and innovative produetions that transport speetators to new realms of imagination.

Cavalia has eaptivated audienees across North Ameriea and Europe and has been praised by the media and eritics alike.Cavalia is a show unlike any other, a lavish orchestration blending multimedia theatrieal spectacle with equestrian and performing arts. Acrobats, aerialists, dancers, musieians and riders are showeased on an enormous, 160-foot-wide stage; a space so expansive that it allows the horses sufficient space to gallop and eavort, at times eompletely unbridled. Recognized for their expertise in the realm of multimedia, Cavalia's creators have used eutting-edge technology to ereate dream-like fantasy world. Large, panoramic images are projected on to a 210-foot-wide curved sereen, while stunning special and lighting effects illuminate the action on the stage and in the air. Original live music and vocals aeeompany this feast for the senses.

Cavalia is presented under North Ameriea's largest touring tent, a pristine white structure rising some 100 feet above the ground and spanning more than 26,264 squarc fcet. The stage alone is the equivalent to the width of a regulation NFL football field.

Juxtaposed with the vibraney of the lavish production is a subtle thematie line that tells the story of the evolution of horses and their bond with human beings, beginning with their unbridled life in the wilderness, to early domestieation and ulti-mately to a rapport with people based on mutual respeet.

Featured in Cavalia are 13 different breeds of horses, including Arabians, Spanish Pure Breeds, Lusitanos, Quarter Horses, Appaloosas and Paint horses from Francc, Canada, Spain and the United States. The featured artists represent talented individuals from sueh nations as the United States Australia, Belgium, Canada, Franee, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Moroceo, Portugal, and Russia.

For its exclusive run in Chicago, Cavalia will be presented under the White Big Top pitched in Chicago's stylish West Loop at Racine and Jaekson. Tiekets are on sale now. Regular tickets are priced from $45.50 to $98.50. Special pricing is available for children and seniors. In addition, special packages including an exelusive visit to the Cavalia stables are also available. Priees do not include service fees.

For more information, a detailed list of show dates and reservations, eall 1-866-999-8111 or visit www.cavalia.net.

Grand Raffle for Park Lawn

Local non profit, Park Lawn, to hold Annual Grand Raffle with the winner to receive a choice of $15,000 eash, or a 2009 Harley Davidson FXDL Dyna Low Rider, or a 2009 Chevrolet Malibu, or a Honda ARX15T38 Watercraft with a trailer (or equivalent).

The second prize is $5,000.00, third prize is $3,000.00, fourth prize is $1,000.00, fifth prize is $500.00, sixth prize is $300.00 and the seventh through tenth winners will take home $200.00 each.

Park Lawn's Grand Raffle tickets cost $100 eaeh, which also includes a buffet/beer/wine reception. Additional reception tickets are available for $20.00 each.

For the first time ever, Park Lawn is offering a Bonus Raffle to everyone who purehases a $100.00 Grand Raffle ticket. For an additional $20.00, the Bonus Raffle provides the chanee to win a one week eondo vacation where some restrietions apply.

Grand Raffle drawing and reeeption will be held on July 30th, 2009 , at Park Lawn School ,

10833 S. LaPorte in Oak Lawn. Only 900 tickets will be sold. Tickets and more info rmation are available at www.parklawn.com, or call 708-425-6867, or visit Park Lawn located at 10833 S. LaPorte in Oak Lawn .

The proceeds from Park Lawn's Grand Raffle will benefit the programs and services provided to hundreds of individuals with developmental disabilities. Park Lawn's mission is to provide serviees that promote independenee, choiee and aeeess to community living for people with developmental disabilities.

South Suburban College receives maximum reaccreditation

South Suburban College officially received their full aeereditation for the maximum period of ten years from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The HLC made their Site visit at SSC from February 2 - 4, 2009, and informed the college at their exit interview they would be recommending the full term for re-accreditation. The college was recently notified that this reeommendation was validated by the Commission Board of Trustees on June 25, 2009.

SSC engaged in a proeess of self-study and evaluation in preparation of renewing their ten-year accreditation that was earned following the last HLC visit in 1999.

"It's a testament to the knowledge and commitment of everyone at the eollege that we are honored to receive the maximum ten-year accreditation onee again," said Frank Zuecarelli, Chairman of the SSC Board of Trustees. "The administration, faculty, and staff worked extremely hard during the self-study proeess, and I congratulate them."

This re-aecreditation marks Zueearelli's third during his tenure serving on the Board.

Aeereditation is eritical to ensure that courses and degrees are recognized aeeordingly by other edueational institutions and employers. The Five Criteria for Accreditation are as follows: Mission and Integrity; Preparing for the Future; Student Learning and Effeetive Teaching; Aequisition, Diseovery, and Application of Knowledge; Engagement and Serviee.

SSC President George Dammer added, "I would like to emphasize to prospective students just how important it is to researeh higher edueational institutions' aeeredited status when pursuing their degree."

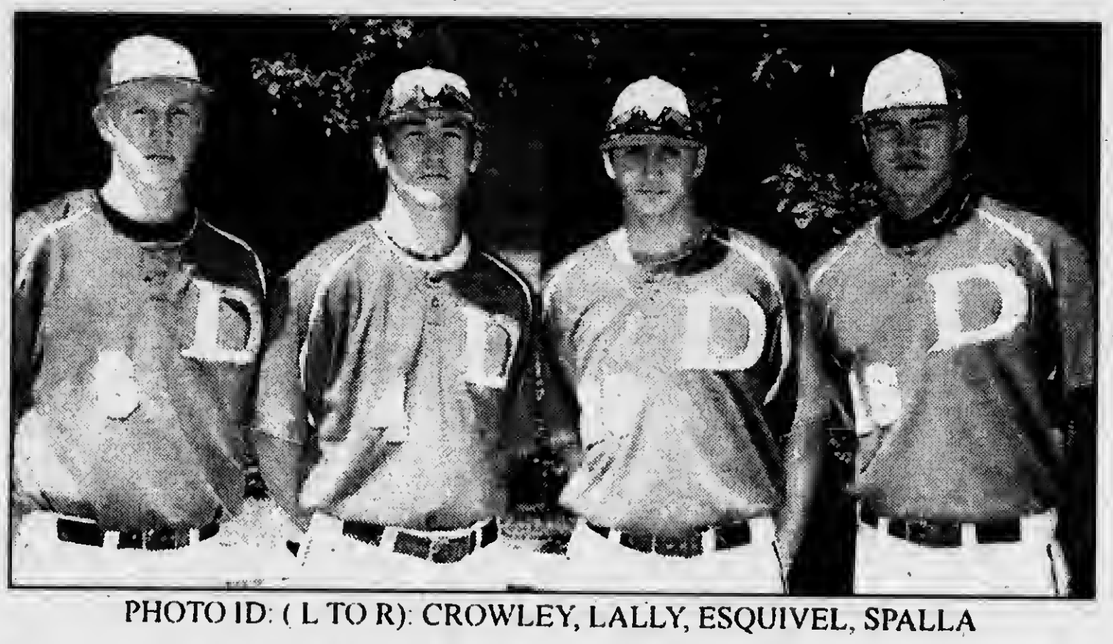


PHOTO ID: (L TO R): CROWLEY, LALLY, ESQUIVEL, SPALLA

Four De La Salle Student-Athletes to Play College Baseball

De La Salle Institute proudly announces that four members of its Class of 2009 will play college baseball next season.

Pitcher Kevin Crowley (Garfield Ridge) will play at Benedictine (IL) University, pitcher Gerardo Esquivel (Bronzeville) has accepted a scholarship to Kansas State University, infielder Tom Lally (Clearing) is headed for Prairie State (IL) College, while pitcher Mike Spalla (Bridgeport) will attend Illinois Wesleyan University.

In addition to their athletic success, the aforementioned quartet also excelled in the classroom. Spalla (4.717 grade-point average) was No. 5 in the 162-member Class of 2009 at De La Salle's Institute Campus for Young Men, while Lally (3.889, 32/162), Crowley (3.467, 50/162) and Esquivel (3.433, 53/162) also thrived academically.

De La Salle congratulates eaeh of these young men on their achievements and wishes them every future success.

De La Salle Institute is an independent Catholic secondary school rooted in the tradition of Christian Education begun by St. John Baptist de La Salle. Founded in 1889, its mission has been, and is, to foster a desire for excellence in education. Young people from a variety of ethnic and economic backgrounds are given the opportunity to fully develop their abilities so they may be active, contributing members of our complex changing society.

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Aliens Hail Pierogi Fest

In a stunning statement confirming their existence, three surviving aliens of the crash near Roswell , New Mexico in 1947 stated that they had come to earth because of Pierogi Fest.

"Nictu yackma loo, loo" exclaimed the aliens, which was translated to mean: "Friends of Earth, we came here to fill up on pierogis and beer!"

The 15th annual Pierogi Fest will be held on July 24th, 25th and 26th in Whiting"s historic downtown area. The festival which commemorates the annual harvest of the namesake eastern European dumplings from the Pierogi orchards takes center stage during three days of live polka music, ethnic foods, arts, crafts, and dancing.

Downtown Whiting is located only 20 minutes south of the Chicago Loop by motor vehicle and only 2.2 milliseconds by spaceship. The festival features the wild, witty, and always hilarious International Polka Parade on Friday evening at 7:00 PM, with its Babushka Brigade, Precision Lawn Mower Drill Team, and many other outrageous entries.

The festival features almost 50 food booths offering a cornucopia of ethnic foods, and more than 75 arts and crafts vendors. The ever-popular children's area is busting at the seams full of excitement and fun. International dancers, Eastern Bloc Jeopardy, and Pierogi Eating and Pierogi Toss contests were cited by the aliens as other reasons to attend. There are three stages of live entertainment going throughout the weekend.

This unique festival has been named by Oprah.com as one of the top seven festivals to visit this summer. The festival and parade have been featured on Wild Chicago, Food Network and Travel Channel. The term "Pierogi" is defined by Wikepedia as a festival in Whiting, Indiana – and it is happening on the weekend of, July 24, 25, & 26." The aliens' home planet of "Wowmash" has declared Whiting's Pierogi Fest as the "best festival in the Galaxy."

Visit www.pierogifest.net for further information regarding entertainment, directions, and parking, or contact the Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce at 888-659-0292.

EP Farmer's Market celebrates their 5th Season with new vendors added

For added market experience and new this season, there will be sweet corn, homemade fudge, domestic & imported cheeses flavored, green teas, hand-rolled incense, Big Daddy's Pork Chop Wagon, also, visit charter vendors offering fresh garden Vegetables, Fruit, Perennials, Flowers, Bagels, Breads, sugar-free Pastry, Nuts, Honey, Watkins. Fuller Brush, Soy Candles & scented oils, Flavored Oils , Homemade gourmet pop corn, fresh lemonade snow cones and Farmer's Market Bags.

Open every Thursday from 7:00 am until 1:00 pm located at Yukich Field at 8900 South Kedzie Avenue in Evergreen Park, IL.

In uncertain time 2009 NCLR annual conference town halls address the economy

Washington, DC—U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis; President and CEO of NCLR (National Council of La Raza) Janet Murguía; and U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan, along with Wal-Mart Senior Vice President and President for Health and Wellness Dr. John O. Agwunobi and President and CEO of the National Urban League Marc Morial, are among the panelists scheduled to participate in town hall meetings focused on national priorities during the 2009 NCLR Annual Conference. Bank of America CEO and former Chairman Ken Lewis will be the featured speaker at the Tuesday Luncheon at 12:30.

In the midst of shaky economic times, Americans are concerned with the health and security of their families, while community-based organizations cope with serving the community and helping to keep families afloat. Expert panelists will focus on the road to economic recovery, what health care reform means for families, and solutions for how nonprofit organizations can increase financial support during the dismal economic crisis.

The town hall meetings, which are free and open to the public, will be held Saturday, July 25–Monday, July 27 in Room W-181abc at McCormick Place West in downtown Chicago, IL.

Visit www.nclr.org for more information. Press can register to attend Conference at no cost at www.nclr.org/pressregistration.

Limited Seating

Monday, July 27, 2009, 3:00–4:30 P.M.

Putting Our Communities on the Map: The Economic Road to Recovery

Lead Sponsor: JPMorgan Chase; Co-Sponsors: ExxonMobil, Nationwide, VantageScore Solutions, LLC

·Featured Speaker: Shaun Donovan, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

·Moderator: Julian Posada, Founder and President, Café Media, LLC

· Janet Murguía, NCLR President and CEO

· Marc Morial, President and CEO, National Urban League

·Henry Cisneros, President and CEO, CityView, Inc.

· Alan Jenkins, Executive Director, The Opportunity Agenda

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 3:00–4:30 P.M.

A New Era of Philanthropy: A Look at the Current Economic Climate and Its Impact on Latino Organizations

Sunday, July 26, 2009, 3:30–5:00 P.M.

A Pound of Cure: The Role of Prevention in the Health Care Reform Debate

NCLR is the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States. The NCLR Annual Conference is the largest national gathering of its kind in the Latino community, serving as the meeting ground for community leaders, activists, and elected and appointed officials; members of the corporate, philanthropic, and academic communities; and youth.

Chicago Organization Will Use Funds To Enhance The Computer Training Area Of Their After School

ProgramThe Women Helping Others (W.H.O.) Foundation, created to encourage women to actively support community service, has awarded a $4,000 Education and Literacy grant to Corazón A Corazón in Chicago, Illinois.

The grant was awarded to help Corazón A Corazón add special software and books to their afterschool program. The "ReadAbout" software that will be purchased is specifically designed to reinforce reading skills.

"Corazón A Corazón is doing some wonderful work," said Cindy Turek, W.H.O. executive director. "We're delighted that we can help the children they serve improve both their reading and their computer skills. We all know how important those two areas of communication are and they're only becoming more crucial with technology advances." Sister Rose Cecile Espinos, Corazón A Corazón executive director, said, "We are thankful for the generosity of W.H.O. These funds will help us continue to assist children in making sure that they're ready for the next level of school work."

Corazón A Corazón, under the sponsorship of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, serves as a catalyst for fundamental change in the community by providing individualized educational services to women and children at risk. Through the afterschool program, one-on-one tutoring is offered with homework, reading and math for grades 1 - 8. Tutoring intends to address the individual difficulties a student may present and prepare the student to better complete the next level of school work.

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MVCC seeks to help unemployed

Moraine Valley Community College is reaching out to workers who have been affected by the adverse economic conditions with services designed to help them go back to work.

The Illinois workNet Center at Moraine Vallcy will offer "Information Sessions for the Unemployed" on Tuesday, July 21, and Monday, August 10. Both sessions will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Fogelson Theater in Building T on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy. , Palos Hills.

Space is limited and reservations are required. To sign up call the workNet Center at (708) 974-5738.The workNet Center also is open to job seekers who can use the resource room to access software for resume and job search assistance, job listings, information about occupations, and to view available federal, state, and local service programs. The center offers grant programs that provide services and retraining programs to help eligible dislocated workers re-enter the workforce.

For more information, visit morainevalley.edu/WIA or call (708) 974-5738. Job seekers and employers also can find more online services at Illinois ' workforce Web site, illinoisworknet.com.

Unemployed workers can get information on other services such as Work Keys (WIN) Preparation and GED/ESL programs by calling the Adult Basic Education Department at (708) 974-5340; the Adult Learner Program by visiting morainevalley.edu/AdultSuccess; and financial aid for Moraine Valley classes by stopping in the Financial Aid Office, Building S, Room 115, or calling (708) 974-5726.

MVCC Meeting

The regular meeting of the Moraine Valley Community College Board of Trustees will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thurs., July 23. Meet in the Board Room, Building D, Room 219, on campus, 9000 West College Parkway, Palos Hills.

St. Rita of Cascia High School students and faculty assist at the Cor Unum Meal Center in Lawrence, Massachusetts as part of St. Rita's 1st Annual Service Trip. Back row from left: Director of Public Relations/Mathematics Teacher Mr. Josh Blaszak, Dan Dillon, (Most Holy Redeemer), Augustinian Volunteer Mr. Joe Toomey, Roberto Hernandez (Nativity BVM), Mike Basic (St. Mary Star of the Sea), Jack Allen (St. John Fisher), and Tom Riordan (St. Cajetan). Front row from left: Kevin Handler (Queen of Martyrs), Director of Campus Ministry Mrs. Vicki Blaszak, and Augustinian Volunteer Ms. Meghan Fitzgerald.

St. Rita of Cascia High School students bring service to Lawrence MA

Summer vacation began for six St. Rita of Cascia High School students by taking volunteering to a different level. These students partook in St. Rita's first ever weeklong Service Trip. The students, all members of St. Rita's incoming senior class, traveled to Lawrence , Massachusetts for a week filled with various service opportunities, as well as reflection and education on volunteering. The students who participated were Jack Allen (St. John Fisher), Mike Basic (St. Mary Star of the Sea), Dan Dillon (Most Holy Redeemer), Kevin Handler (Queen of Martyrs), Roberto Hernandez (Nativity BVM), and Tom Riordan (St. Cajetan).

The Service Trip, which St. Rita plans to continue annually, provided participants a chance to remove themselves from their everyday routines and become fully immersed in service. Each morning the young men began with prayer and traveled to worksites for the day. After the daily volunteer work was completed the group would gather together to reflect on what had taken place and discussed other issues related to their service.

Organized under St. Rita's Campus Ministry Office, Lawrence , Massachusetts was selected as the location for this 1st Annual Service Trip due to the vast amount of aid needed in that area. Lawrence is currently the 23rd poorest city in the United States. The Order of St. Augustine, which St. Rita is a part, also has a presence in the Lawrence community. Thus, the students had a strong connection to those they were assisting.

The students took on many different tasks during the trip. They assisted partnering organizations in whatever ways necessary. Time was spent tutoring and mentoring boys at Blessed Stephen Bellesini O.S.A. Academy, a private, independent Catholic middle school dedicated to providing a quality, scholarship education to boys from limited financial means living in Lawrence. Other volunteer time was spent assisting with projects at Lazarus House Ministries and serving meals at the Cor Unum Meal Center .

The development of the Service Trip opportunity was led by the Director of Campus Ministry, Mrs. Vicki Blaszak, and Campus Ministry's Augustinian Volunteer, Ms. Meghan Fitzgerald. The Campus Ministry Office is working to offer a range of volunteering opportunities to St. Rita students in order to spiritually enlighten and educate them, while at the same time connect them to those in surrounding communities and abroad.

"It was great to see our students move beyond their comfort zone and commit to helping others for an extended period of time. It's easy to get caught up in our daily routines, so thc challenge of living as a community and putting our faith into action for an entirc week will hopefully help bring about a deeper understanding our Augustinian values," said Mrs. Blaszak.

"We hope that our young men have recognized the face of God in people from all walks of life and will continue to serve others as we are all called to do as Christians," she said.

The 1st Annual Service Trip took place May 31st through June 6th. The students were accompanied by Mrs. Blaszak, Ms. Fitzgerald, Director of Public Relations/Mathematics Tcacher Mr. Josh Blaszak and Augustinian Volunteer Mr. Joe Toomey. Everyone who participated, including the faculty, found the week to be extremely rewarding and educational. Following the trip's success, plans are already underway for the 2nd Annual Service Trip.

Marist Head Coach Tom Fabrizio

Marist Appoints New Head Baseball Coach

Marist High School Athletic Director Tom Schergen announced that Tom Fabrizio was selected as the head baseball coach for the 2010 season. Fabrizio (Oak Forest) is a 1998 graduate of Marist, and is excited to take on the position and is thankful for the opportunity to head the program. "It's an honor to have been chosen as the head coach. I'm following in the footsteps of some legendary coaches at the school," Fabrizio said. "Hopefully, with hard work and effort and I can achieve some of the success those coaches have had." Fabrizio, who was a standout outfielder during his four years at Marist, went on to play at Division 1 Western Michigan University.

Upon graduating, he spent a year in the San Diego Padres' minor league system. The 2009-10 school year marks his sixth year at Marist High School, where Fabrizio is a guidance counselor. He has also been on the school's coaching staff for baseball, football and wrestling. "We are excited to have Tom head up the baseball program at Marist," Schergen said. "To have someone who was a part of the program as a student-athlete, and has had demonstrated success as a lower level coach at Marist means a lot. It shows a great commitment on Tom's part to the school and the program, and knowing his work ethic, we're looking forward to a great working relationship and a bright future for the RedHawk baseball program."

Fabrizio takes over the reigns from Joel Jonas, who lead Marist for the past ten seasons. He retired this summer. Marist competes in the East Suburban Catholic Conference. Celebrating 45 years of excellence, Marist High School is a Catholic, college preparatory school educating young men and women in heart, mind, and body.

Queen of Peace to hold annual golf outing

Queen of Peace's annual golf outing will take place Saturday, August 29, 2009 at Oak Hills Country Club in Palos Heights. Registration and a continental breakfast will begin at 9 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 10 a.m.

The cost of the event is $85 and includes breakfast, lunch and nine holes of golf. A luncheon only option is available for $35. Proceeds from the 17th Annual Peace Golf Classic will support student programs and the scholarship fund. Make a reservation for you or your foursome by August 15.

To register, visit www.queenofpeacehs.org or call (708) 458-7600, Ext. 253 to pay by credit card.

Complimentary soft drinks, beer and snacks will be served on the course. Participants also are invited to try their luck with longest drive, longest putt, closest to the pin and other golf competitions.

Interested sponsors can download a sponsorship www.queenofpeacehs.org. All donations play a vital role in helping Queen of Peace thrive for future generations of Women of Peace.

For more information, contact Cindy Kmetty at (708) 458-7600, Ext. 250 or visit our website at kmettyc@queenofpeacehs.org.

LET'S GOLF

Boleros presented at Goodman

by Marijo Doody

Love and marriage, machismo, generational shifts and immigration along with aging and death are the themes of Jose Rivera's play "Boleros for the Disenchanted." currently running at Goodman Theatre until July 26.

The cast all have dual rolls and include Lisa Fernandez, Elizabeth Ledo, Sandra Marquez in female roles and Joe Minoso, Rene Rivera and Felix Solis.

The beginning is Rivera's concept of a Romeo and Juliet in 20th century Puerto Rican setting. The strong faith of the women is most pronounced and the machismos' of the male is evident. Young Flora (Lito) gives a stellar performance.

In the second, part Older Flora (Marquez) and older Eueblo) Rene Rivera have been in the United States many years and he suffers from diabetes and has lost limbs. The performances by the two of them are riveting. Once again the religious faith of the Hispanic culture sustains them, and particularly Flora. Perhaps this play will be recommended for Broadway, and certainly the Jeff committee. Call 312-443-3800 for tickets.

Doody's reminising

by Marijo Doody

So we have laid to rest Michael Jackson. For the many millions of people in the world, I, too, was glued to the TV for the past week with nothing else on the tube. I could not help but being stirred by his entertainment over the years and his recognition of being an icon in the industry.

One would have to be living under a rock, not to remember Michael's red jacket, silver glove and his dance moves.What about his humble beginnings with the Jackson Five. Yes, that little cute kid stood out when he was so young, it's no wonder he continuely stood out amongst his peers in the music industry. His contributions to the music world were important. He influenced rock and roll, American Pop, and yes, Rhythm and Blues. There will not be another like him, ever. He certainly has influenced younger artist now in the music world. Like Elvis his impact was felt throughout the world, and now with greater communication through the Internet, I Pod and the like more persons saw the festivities and funeral.

The purchasing figures hit the ceiling after his death and I believe the saddest part was he was in the midst of rehearsals for a new world concert tour come back when he died.

A friend of mine told me a story about when her daughter was seven years old and wanted to enter a pumpkin contest but there were an enormous amount of entries. She had suggested to her daughter to make the pumpkin like Michael Jackson since the little girl liked him so much. That was way back in 1972. The black marker and plastic stuffing was useful. She colored the whole pumpkin, cut out a mouth and nose, used it for ears and the plastic was used for Afro hair. Marshmellows for eyes and won second prize.

So long Michael, go with God and you were a Thriller.

El Grito del Bronx a world premiere

This summer Collaboraction teams up with Teatro Vista to co-produce the world premiere of El Grito del Bronx by Migdalia Cruz, one of the most prominent and innovative living Latina playwrights. The play is produced in association with Goodman Theatre. Collaboraction Executive Artistic Director Anthony Moseley directs Collaboraction and Teatro Vista member Sandra Delgado, Teatro Vista Artistic Director Eddie Torres and others in this powerful new work exploring the recurring cycle of violence, the universality of suffering and the power of the human spirit to soar again.

El Grito del Bronx will be performed in the Goodman's Owen Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St., July 15 – Aug. 2, 2009. Call 312.443.3800 or go online. Discounted tickets available for groups by calling 312-443-3815.This is an English language production.

On her wedding day, Lulu must confront her brother Papo's legacy of violence before she can feel entitled to happiness. Set in a poetic memoryscape that travels between the 1970s and 1990s—from childhood to death row, from white dresses to orange jumpsuits, from murder to redemption—Lulu and Papo discover that what binds them is not only the haunted darkness, but also the freedom to turn on the light.

"Collaboraction and Teatro Vista are honored to bring this courageous work to the Chicago stage," said Anthony Moseley, Executive Artistic Director of Collaboraction. "Using beautiful and lyrical language, Cruz has created vivid imagery to explore difficult yet pertinent themes of cultural fusion, the humanization of a mass murderer and the effects of domestic abuse."

"This co-production has been in development for four years," added Eddie Torres, Teatro Vista Artistic Director. "That time allowed our companies time to cultivate this incredible partnership and collaborate with Migdalia Cruz on the development on the script. We expect audiences to be moved by the story and exhilarated by experiencing the voice of this remarkable Latina playwright."

El Grito del Bronx was commissioned by The Public Theatre in New York and has received subsequent workshops at The Mark Taper Forum, South Coast Repertory and Goodman Theatre's Latino Theatre Festival in conjunction with Teatro Vista. Prior to that, Anthony Moseley directed the staged reading of El Grito del Bronx at Teatro Vista's Tapas Reading Series in 2005.

Open auditon announcement

The Tinley Park-Park District's Arts Alive! Community Theater group will hold open auditions for their production of Love Letters, by A.R. Gurney. Auditions will take place on Monday and Tuesday, August 3 and 4 at the Bettenhausen Recreation Center, 8125 W. 171st Street in Tinley Park at 6:00 p.m. each day. Audition appointments will also be accepted for anyone not able to make the open auditions. Please contact Laurie Fanelli at (708) 342-4200 to schedule an appointment. Adults age 18 and up are encouraged to audition, regardless of acting experience.

Performances of Love Letters will take place October 16, 17 and 18 at the Landmark Church, 6727 W. 174th Street in Tinley Park. Rehearsals will be held on evenings and weekends beginning in mid-August.

For additional information, contact the Park District at (708) 342-4200.

McKean to star on Broadway in Superior Donuts

Steppenwolf Theatre Company is going to Broadway in the production of Tracy Letts play Superior Donuts. Theatre, movie and TV star Michael McKean will reprieve his role that was featured in the Chicago Steppenwolf production last year in the Broadway run that begins in the fall at the Music Box Theatre in New York.

Letts received a Pulitzer and Tony Award two years ago for August Osage County. Ensemble member Tina Landau will direct the production.

McKean recently appeared on Broadway on Harold Pinter's The Homecoming which he received the Drama Desk award for Best Ensemble. He received the 2008 Tony Award for the stunning performance in the revival of The Pajama Game.

The play Superior Donuts played to sold out runs at Steppenwolf last summer. Full casting has not been announced. For Telecharge.com, call 212-239-6200

Chicago's Black Ensemble Theater presents "Sex in the Summer in the City" series

Jackie Taylor, Founder and Executive Director of Black Ensemble Theater, is proud to announce the ***"Sex in the Summer in the City"*** series produced by the Black Playwrights Initiative (BPI) of the Black Ensemble Theater. The sizzling summer series will run on select dates from Thursday, July 9 thru Saturday, August 29, 2009

The ***"Sex in the Summer in the City"*** series is comprised of three, one act plays representing something new and different from the Black Ensemble Theater. The series was written by members of the Black Playwrights Initiative (BPI), which was developed by Taylor for the purpose of building a team of writers who would write scripts specifically for the Black Ensemble Theater. ***"Sex in the Summer in the City"*** is a steamy, thought-provoking series that combines passion with misplaced priorities as it follows multiple journeys of love. Within each act particular issues of lust, agony, weakness and betrayal surface upon the stage. Below is a complete schedule for the ***"Sex in the Summer in the City"*** series.

Thursday, July 23, at 7:30 p.m. & Saturday, July 25, at 11:00 p.m.

Glamorous Life

Written by Cory Wright Directed by Daryl Brooks

Glamorous Life is the first installment of a four-part series. In this piece, Tocarra is getting married. However, the always opinionated First Lady Bunny Vaughn has a few things to say about the event. Conflict arises when the family receives some tragic news causing Bunny to re-examine her life, as glamorous as it may be. ***Glamorous Life***, written by Cory Wright and directed by Daryl Brooks, is an eye opening piece hinging on rivalry and disaccord between family members.

Thursday, August 27, at 7:30 p.m. & Saturday, August 29, at 11:00 p.m.

A Love By Any Other Name

Written by Qween Wicks Directed by Daryl Brooks & Qween Wicks

A Love By Any Other Name is an emotional piece that centers upon damaging rumors and cutting betrayal between loved ones. Eloise Madison, Beverly Jackson, and Carol Foster have been best friends since high school, but their friendship hasn't been easy. That is, there is always an issue that threatens to destroy someone's happiness within the group, whether it is cheating lovers, husbands on the down-low, or secrets from their youth. Under the watch of two nosy neighbors on Chicago 's South Side neighborhood, nothing goes unnoticed. This stimulating play was written by Qween Wicks and directed by Daryl Brooks and Qween Wicks.

All performances will take place at the Black Ensemble Theater, 4520 N. Beacon. Tickets, priced at $20 (with a free glass of wine) or $50 for the entire series, are available by calling the Black Ensemble Theater Box Office at 773-769-4451 .

Seussical the Musical in Chicago Heights

Performances will be held at the Drama Group Studio Theatre, which is located at 330 W. 202nd Street , Chicago Heights , Illinois . Tickets are $15.00 for adults and $14.00 for seniors and students. Tickets are available by calling the Drama Group box office at (708) 755-3444. For directions and visit our Web site at www.dramagroup.org.

There is limited handicap accessibility at the Studio Theatre. Please call the Drama Group box office for details.

A portion of this show is made possible by a generous grant from the Illinois Arts Council

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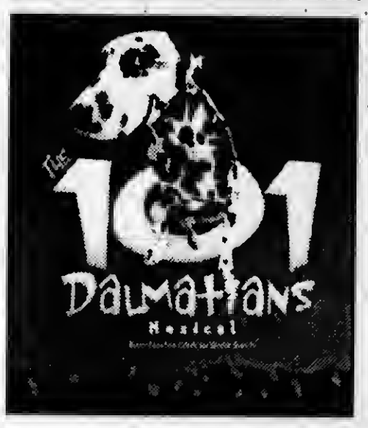
One of the World's Most Beloved Stories Comes to Life on the National Stage for the First Time With The 101 Dalmatians



Based on the book by Dodie Smith

Presented by Broadway In Chicago, **THE 101 DALMATIANS MUSICAL** is one of the world's greatest classic tales and will come to life on stage at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Oriental Theatre for a limited engagement February 16 to 28, 2010. Based on the beloved book by Dodie Smith, **THE 101 DALMATIANS MUSICAL** is a one-of-a-kind adventure for the entire family about what it means to be a family, canine and courageous. The musical is led by an award-winning creative team including four-time Tony Award winning director Jerry Zaks (*A Bronx Tale, Smokey Joe's Café, Guys and Dolls*), acclaimed bookwriter and colyricist BT McNicholl (*Billy Elliot, Spamalot, The IT Girl*), and Dennis DeYoung, founding member of the legendary rock band *STYX*, on board as composer and co-lyricist.

The musical is produced by Magic Arts & Entertainment/ Tix Productions, Troika Entertainment, and international producer Luis Alvarez. Tour and ticket information is available at www.The101DalmatiansMusical.com.

"We are thrilled to be bringing the beloved classic story of 101 Dalmatians to life and to audiences across the country this fall," said Lee D. Marshall, Co-Founder of Magic Arts & Entertainment/Tix Productions. "The inspiration for the production's unique and delightful concept came directly from re-discovering the original 1957 novel. Now over 50 years later, the 101 Dalmatians tale continues to bring joy to families and we are confident our talented creative team will inspire theatergoers of all ages through **THE 101 DALMATIANS MUSICAL's** unique story-telling, amazing new music and tremendous performances."

In keeping with the spirit of the beloved original story, **THE 101 DALMATIANS MUSICAL** promises a quirky, upside-down view of the world, where the audience is allowed to see life from a dog's point of view. The stage musical will transport theatergoers into an exciting and altogether fantastic reality that gives grand license for song, dance and spectacle. In addition to the bevy of talented human actors, **THE 101 DALMATIANS MUSICAL** will showcase fifteen talented Dalmatians, many of which were rescued from animal shelters across the country and given a new lease on life with this starring role, making this an even more, truly inspiring rags to riches story.

THE 101 DALMATIANS MUSICAL follows Dalmatians spouses Pongo and Missis Pongo who are living the good life in London with their "pets" Charles and Catherine Dearly. When their 10 puppies are suddenly "dognapped" by the villainous Cruella de Vil, they summon the help of a vast network of dogs and set off to rescue their pups. There's a happy ending for all with laughter, mayhem and music along the way.

Director Jerry Zaks added, "We felt it was very important to accurately portray the look and feel of the original book, --which tells the story from the dog's point-of-view -- in a way that translates to the stage. Humans will be presented in a heightened form of dress and scale so as to appear larger than life, and the actors who play the animals will thus seem more human than their humans. As for the lovable Dalmatians, they will have no ears, no paws – but rather a clever use of costumes in a black-and-white palette that will immediately set them apart from the human characters. **THE 101 DALMATIANS MUSICAL** is a universal tale about a parent's love for their children and how they must band together during a difficult time."

The show's lively contemporary score and soundtrack was composed by Grammy nominated and People's Choice Award winner Dennis DeYoung. As former singer of the legendary rock band STYX, DeYoung composed such unforgettable, timeless hits as "Babe," "Come Sail Away," "The Best of Times" and "Mr. Roboto." With **THE 101 DALMATIANS MUSICAL,** he brings his pop rock flair to an array of original songs destined to become popular material to kids and adults alike. These include: "One-Hundred-and-One Dalmatians," "Twilight Barking," "One True Love," "Cruella Always Gets Her Way" and "Be A Little Braver."

"I love having the opportunity to give musical life to the outrageous Cruella De Vil, what composer wouldn't? (Mozart perhaps, but I digress). But more importantly to try and create a score that will stay with the audience long after they have left the theater. As in days of old, musical theater music should aspire to be relevant both in and out of dramatic context. With that in mind, it might be time to start teaching your dogs to sing," said Dennis DeYoung, composer and co-lyricist for **THE 101 DALMATIANS MUSICAL.**

THE 101 DALMATIANS MUSICAL also features a surprise grand finale showcasing the tremendous talents of the professional and rescued Dalmatians that will leave audiences cheering. The dogs were all trained by one of the world's foremost animal trainers, Joel Slaven, who has worked extensively with Jack Hanna on such features films as *Ace Ventura Pet Detective* and *That Darn Cat.*

Purina® Dog Chow®, the brand that celebrates millions of rascally dogs around the country, has signed on as the title sponsor for **THE 101 DALMATIANS MUSICAL.** Purina Dog Chow will support the musical with an extensive national print, retail and online campaign.

The individual tickets on-sale date will be announced at a later date. Tickets are currently available as part of the 2009-2010 Broadway In Chicago Series at 312-977-1717 and to groups of 20 or more by calling (312) 977-1710.

For more information, visit www.The101DalmatiansMusical.com or www.BroadwayInChicago.com

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, welcomes new commander

ROCK ISLAND, Ill. (July, 17, 2009) – Col. Shawn McGinley took command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, during a change of command ceremony held today at Quarters One on the Rock Island Arsenal.

McGinley took command replacing outgoing commander Col. Robert Sinkler who had commanded the District since July of 2006. McGinley, who comes to the District after commanding an engineer battalion in Germany , expressed great pride in his new assignment.

"We live in interesting and challenging times to serve our great Army and Nation, and, in these times, I am profoundly humbled and honored to have been selected to serve the Army as the next commander of the Rock Island District," McGinley said during the ceremony. " I have been tremendously impressed by the professionalism of the District employees that I have seen in my short time here. I offer you my best effort to take care of you and your families during my command here in Rock Island ."

Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, presided over the change of command ceremony. He welcomed McGinley to his new command and described him as a colonel with a variety of experiences well suited for the challenges ahead. Walsh also congratulated Sinkler for his accomplishments during his tenure as the District's commander.

"Bob was a champion for this District and its missions and he wanted everyone to know what his employees were doing, whether that was environmental management, ecosystem restoration, navigation, flood recovery or emergency management," Walsh said "Bob knew his people had a great story to tell and he made sure to get out into the communities and keep the public informed."

Sinkler, who is now the commander of the Hurricane Protection Office in New Orleans , said his time with the District is something he will never forget and that he and his wife, Brandie, will always consider the Midwest home.

"Everyone here made me my job very easy," Sinkler said. "I've said it many times – the Rock Island District is a high performance District."

In taking command, McGinley is now in charge of a District that spans 78,318 square miles, which includes most of Iowa and Illinois , and portions of Minnesota , Wisconsin and Missouri . As district engineer, he is responsible for planning, engineering and constructing water resource projects in this five state area and administering laws for the protection of navigable waterways and regulatory actions for Illinois and Iowa . He oversees approximately 950 employees in the operation and maintenance of 20 lock and dam sites on the Mississippi and Illinois rivers and three flood protection and recreation reservoirs in Iowa.

City working with Cook County to ease construction headaches

Oak Forest, Illinois – According to Cook County engineers, residents on the east side of 167th Street should have full access to their driveways by the end of next week. Since April, crews have been reconstructing the road between Cicero Avenue and Central Avenue. Throughout that time, residents on the east side of 167th Street have had to endure limited access to their driveways. "Construction is frustrating, especially when it's happening right outside your front door," said Public Works Director Troy Ishler. "But, it's also necessary in order to improve the roadway. For the most part, residents have been very patient and we appreciate that. The crews just need a little more time to get things finished up on this side of the street." On Monday, crews expect to pour the concrete for the curbs. The concrete will take about a week to harden. Once it has cured, residents on the east side of 167th Street will have full access to their driveways. Shortly after the curb and parking lane are completed, crews will reopen the east bound lanes of 167th Street. Construction will then begin on the west side of the street. "On this project, the city is the middleman," Ishler explained. "We understand that residents are frustrated. We'll continue to do our best to make sure their issues are heard and addressed by the county. Overall, I think the project is progressing as good as can be expected for such a major overhaul." Ishler also noted that the city has posted signs throughout the construction area to help residents make their way in and out of the Gingerwood subdivision. Residents can also get the latest construction updates by visiting the city's Web site at www.oak-forest.org, signing up for the city's weekly electronic newsletter at cityofoakforest@oak-forest.org or following the city's tweets on Twitter at http://twitter.com/cityofoakforest.

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Far South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 14

July 21, 2009

Oak Forest's traffic enforcement yields tickets

Traffic enforcement campaign yields 165 citations and one arrest. Next traffic enforcement campaign begins August 21

From June 19 through July 6, the Oak Forest Police Department issued 165 tickets as part of a traffic enforcement cam-paign funded by the Illinois Department of Transporta-tion's Integrated Mini-Grant Enforcement pro-gram. While most of the tickets were issued for speeding and not wearing seat belts, other offenses included lack of insurance, suspended or revoked driving statutes, and moving violations.

In addition, officers made one felony arrest for possession of a controlled substance. "We're still writing a lot of speeding tickets," said Lieutenant Michael Shaughnessy. "But, more motorists are using their seatbelts, which can be attributed to an increase in educational and enforce-ment efforts by IDOT and the Police Department."

The enforcement cam-paign was the fourth in a five-part program to promote traffic safety by conducting saturation patrols in pre-assigned areas. The final campaign will occur over the Labor Day holiday – August 21 to September 7 – and involve saturation patrols seeking speed, restraint and impaired driving violations.

"Whether or not there is a campaign in effect, we urge all Oak Forest residents to be smart and courteous drivers," Shaughnessy added.

8U Orland Shockers

The 8U Orland Shockers recently won thc championship of the Homer Athletic Club Summer Tournament. The Shockers were undefeated in the tournament and outscorcd their opponents 99-7.

FRONT ROW: Kevin McCormick (BatBoy), Jack Payton, Dylan Jacobs, Jake Pygon, Thomas Cavanaugh, Jason Pygon, Bryce Barnett & Tyler Skrabis (BatBoy)

MIDDLE ROW: Ryan Palmblad, Ashley Wood, Matt McCormick, Michael Lawlor, Brian Adams, Nick Skrabis & Andrew Palmblad (BatBoy)

BACK ROW: Mike McCormick, Russ Barnett, Mark Adams & Mike Skrabis (All Coaches)

Free Podiatry Screenings

Orland Township Health Services will offer free podiatry screenings on August 18, 2009 at its' office at 15100 S. 94th Ave., Orland Park.

A local podiatrist will provide the screening examination and patients have the opportunity to ask questions about abnormalities, chronic pain, and other foot problems.

The podiatry screenings are available to all Orland Township residents, which includes Tinley Park, Orland Park, Orland Hills, and unincorporated Orland Township.

To schedule an appointment, please call Orland Township at (708) 403-4222. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday evenings until 6:00 p.m.

Live Band Karaoke at Taste

Live Band Karaoke will return to the Taste of Orland Park on Friday, July 31 from 8 to 11 p.m. on the Community Stage. After reviewing the list up ahead of time to reserve a spot to sing with the band. Just call or email your name and song to Kim DeRose at (708) 403-6235 mediaintern@orland-park.il.us to put your name and selection on the list.

Photo by Wehmeier Portraits

OPACC Fifth Third Bank

Robin Wagner Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce President welcomes Boris Ayala and Colette Connolly of Fifth Third Bank to the community at the bank's recent Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting ceremony. Fifth Third's newest branch is located at 28 Orland Square Drive in Orland Park .

Tinley Park honors employees

Mayor Zabrocki at the July 7 Tinley Park Board of Trustees meeting presented the following employees with ten years of service pins: Scott Niehaus, Village Manager; Michael Mertens, Assistant Village Manager; Donna Framke, Director of Marketing; William Richey, Michael Gigenberg and Stanley Pedziwiatr of the Fire Department; Diane Lynch, Charles Faricelli, Delynn Kiedaisch, Pamela Yurko, and William Dwyer of the Police Department; Lori Moller, Public Works Department.

Other highlights: the village board concurred with a recommendation from the Long Range Plan Commission and approved a site plan and special land use for major deviation to an existing planned unit development for property at 7133 W. 159th Street for a proposed Burger King Restaurant. The 2,955 square foot development would consist of one single lane drive through located at 159th Street and 71st Court - this proposed redevelopment would replace the existing Orient Restaurant building. This was approved for the first reading.

The board approved a block party permit for July 25 at 16333 S. 67th Court from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. as well as a block party permit for August 1 at 7001 Coachwood Trail from noon to 10:30 p.m.

The board approved a license request from the Tinley Park Crisis Center for South Suburbia to conduct a raffle through August 11 as well as a request from Peoples Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) to conduct a raffle from July 8 to December 6.

Attention all Medical Centers, Nursing Homes, Senior Centers, Dentists and Eye Care Centers, Chiropractors, Foot Dr's, Medical Practice Dr's, Health Care Centers, Retirement Homes, Caregivers, Massage Therapists, Fitness Centers, and more. Contact Linda for the Medical and Health and Senior issues. Call for details about our next issues! Call 312-624-8996.

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South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 14

July 21, 2009

Pictured from left to right, seated are committee members Mary Soder and Marge Kapclinski and standing Terry Horvath and Eileen Lunter.

Enjoy your own card game

The Palos Heights Woman's Club is holding a Grand Slam Anniversary Card Party on Thursday, August 13th at the Good Shepard Lutheran Church located at 7800 McCarthy Road (123rd Street). Sign in is at 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at noon.

Guests may play any game of their choice, bridge, gin rummy, poker, pinocle, canasta, bunco, mah-jongg, etc. The costs is $25.00 per person. This is a fund raising event with the proceeds benefiting the Anniversary Garden at Lake Katherine. Reservations are necessary. Call Terry at 448-0439 or Eileen at 466-7089.

Worth resident celebrated 100th birthday

Worth Village President, Randy Keller pictured left recently visited Ed Meyer to celebrate his 100th birthday. Ed had joked that he had renewed his drivers' license the day before. The Village would like to wish Ed and his family all the best.

Gov. Pat Quinn signs state budget

SPRINGFIELD—Two weeks into the state's budget year, Illinois lawmakers approved a stop-gap $26 billion spending plan for government operations that relies on $3.5 billion in borrowing and millions of dollars more in cuts to restore most funding for social services while putting off a possible income-tax hike vote."We're doing this because we have to do it, but it's wrong that we have to do it," said Senate President John Cullerton of the budget package, vowing an income-tax hike vote in January. "I say we come here in January and take up that issue."The delay in enacting a state budget was a result of a test of wills between rookie Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn and the two veteran Chicago Democratic leaders of the legislature, House Speaker Michael Madigan and Senate President John Cullerton.

Quinn fought unsuccessfully for a tax increase and tried to hold up approving a massive job-creating public works program. He later caved on both. The budget maneuvering would allow lawmakers to leave Springfield and state government to continue. A tax-hike vote, assuming one still takes place, would be put off until late fall. That's when legislators will know if they face strong opposition. A tax hike vote also could be delayed until early next year when fewer votes would be required to approve an income-tax increase.

The budget plan relies on borrowing $3.5 billion to help pay state employee pensions—a move that would cost as much as $800 million a year for the next five years to pay off. At the same time, $2.23 billion would be freed up this year to supplement the budgets of social service providers to the poor, disabled and elderly. Another $1.2 billion would be available for Quinn to use at his discretion to boost funding for state agencies.State lawmakers also would have to take a dozen unpaid days off.Under an earlier budget plan passed by lawmakers in May and mostly vetoed by Quinn, social service agencies faced cuts of 50 percent or more in state grants.

The borrowing would allow many of those grants to be funded at more than 80 percent, budget negotiators said.At the same time, Quinn would be faced with making more than $1 billion in budget cuts. He also has vowed to hold back more money from state agencies in a sort of contingency fund."Essentially by doing this, we have made him the king of Illinois," Sen. Donne Trotter (D-Chicago) said of giving Quinn emergency power to trim state spending."There will be cuts," said Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie (D-Chicago), Madigan's top deputy. "There is no way the governor can manage this budget without significant cuts."Rep. David Leitch (R-Peoria) argued in favor of the borrowing proposal so community-based social service agencies facing "dire straits" can be put on better footing but that it is "by no means sufficient." Leitch also said he had secured a commitment from the Quinn administration to work toward paying down backlogged payments to social service agencies. But Rep. Jack Franks (D-Marengo) said the move meant lawmakers are playing politics and the action meant state officials are "going to borrow ourselves into oblivion.""We're on the brink of a man-made disaster," Franks said, adding: "This is nothing more than smoke and mirrors....It's irresponsible and it's reckless."

Chicago Ridge may reestablish Youth Commission

Commissioner Hank Zwirkoski officially retired from the eliminated Youth Service Bureau at the July 7 Chicago Ridge Board of Trustees meeting and requested the bureau be reestablished as a non-for profit organization so it is not an entity of the village and the village can sponsor the bureau as a non- profit organization. A new commissioner needed to be appointed which was Zwirkoski. . The village attorney was directed to draft ordnance regarding a new youth commissioner and the board is expected to vote on this at the next meeting

Other highlights: The village board approved the Fraternal Order of Police union contract as well as a request from the planning and zoning commission for a special use and issued a business license for Romano Fitness Center to be located in the former Landis Plastics building at 10800 S. Central Avenue.

A building department request to award a contract to Anchor Mechanical for $5,875 for the replacement of the village hall high voltage air conditioning unit as well as a public works request to award a contract to Elens Meichen for under $25,000 to replace the pumping station roof and make necessary roof repairs to the public works building was approved.

The following Ridge-Fest contracts were approved: Measner Magic; Infinity; Power Up; KC Audio; Matt Shearer; Sixteen Candles; magician Terry Murphy; Bridgeview Bank ATM; Catalina Carts; Lang Ice; Wilson Rental; Dave Rudolf; Magician Tevell Rose; Ryan "The King" Pelton; Marrakesh Express; Lester's Learn n Play; Magician Paul; Lee; Niarome Clowns; Balloon Dude Dale; Animals for Awareness; Record a Hit; Livin it up; All Around Amusements; Atlanta Rhythm Section; Julianne Hough and BoDeans. The board approved a proclamation in support of the 20116 Olympics.

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B-MAC EDITION

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 14

July 21, 2009

photo by Teresa Potasiak

Pappas welcomes Commissioner John Daley to reception for Ethnic Museums

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas welcomes speaker John P. Daley, speaker, Cook County Commissioner of the 11th District, to a reception for ethnic museums. Daley congratulated the ethnic museums for promoting and preserving the history of their communities. Representatives of some 53 museums and exhibits came to Pappas' downtown Chicago office for a reception recognizing Chicagoland ethnic museums and exhibits. "These museums and exhibits are born of love and respect for heritage," Pappas said. "Together, they give Chicagoland its distinct character as a community of communities."

Water For People Awarded 2008 Water Award by Com Frank Avila and Wife

Commissioner Frank Avila and his wife Sherry presented Water For People the 2008 Excellence for Water Environment Award at the Chicago Access Network Television Studio in June of this year.

The presentation will air on Chicago Comcast Cable Channel 19, Tues, July 28, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. and Wed., July 29, 2009 at 12:00 p.m.Commissioner Avila's show, "Commissioner Frank Avila Speaks," focuses on the water supply, water quality, waterways, and wastewater treatment.

After the taping, Sherry Avila thanked Water For People. "It was our deepest pleasure and privilege to present Nina Miller, a representative from Water For People, with the Excellence in Protecting our Water Environment Award. We felt that Nina and host Commissioner Frank Avila of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago produced an exceptional show detailing how Water For People helps those in developing countries gain access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. We hope it will benefit all who see it."

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Alsip approves Intergovernmental agreement

The village board approved an Intergovernmental Public Safety Interoperable Commissions Radio loan agreement between Cook County and the village at the July 6 Alsip Board of Trustees meeting. A police department request to hire two part time community service officers to work 20 hours per week at a pay rate of $12.00 per hour in order to replace one vacancy created by a recent resignation as well as hiring an additional officer to expand the unit was also approved.

Other highlights: The board approved a contract with C.J. Erickson for eleven sewer basins at Heritage 11 apartments at a cost not to exceed $15,000 as well as a request to advertise for bids for twelve roofs and fifteen boilers for Heritage 11 apartments. A request to forward a special use request along with a zoning change to the Planning and Zoning Committee for review and hearing regarding the property at 11925 S Cicero Avenue was also approved

An IDOT resolution regarding improvements to various streets in the village was approved as well as a request from Chase Bank at 12041 S: Pulaski Avenue for a construction trailer. An easement agreement between the village and School District 126 at 11700 S. Kolin Avenue was also approved.

A request for a block party at 4300 W. 118th Street for August 15 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. with a DJ until 10:00 p.m. was approved as well as a block party with a live band at 125th and Mansfield Avenue on August 8 from noon to 10:00 p.m. and a block party at 124th Street and Austin Avenue. A memorandum of understanding between the American Red Cross Greater Chicago Chapter and the village was also approved.

Scrupulous people trying to steal

by Annette Dixon

Where are the leaders of the churches such as Jesse Jackson, Rev. Michael Pflegar and others? Even if the Burr Oak cemetary is a nonsectarian gravesite shouldn't the religious leaders become more vocal. This is when the need of the churches can get together and accomplish something quicker than the state. Thanks to the new appointed administrator, who worked for the Catholic Archdiocease at one time, help those families of the deceased find their love one's demise.

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VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 36 Number 3

August 4, 2009

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce holds successful golf outing

The Oak Lawn Chamber held its largest annual fundraiser, the Golf Outing, on Wednesday, July 15. Nearly 90 golfers came out to enjoy the links at Stony Creek Golf Course. The day began with lunch followed by a shot-gun start for 18 holes of golf.

The winners of golf, with the lowest net score were Tom Wogan, Tom Krippel, Tim Clark, Ray Trzeciek, and the winners with the lowest gross score were Bud Gavin, Steve Loulousis, Jim Tinerella, and Lou Perakis. Each foursome was awarded with a traveling trophy and either a gift certificate to the Hilton Oak Lawn or Phil's Pizza.

Many Oak Lawn businesses showed their support for the event through sponsorships. More than 20 businesses served as hole sponsors.

Hickory Hills heralds programs

Enjoy live harness at its best as we take a trip to Maywood Park on Friday, August 7. Transportation departs Krueger Park Rec. Center at 5:30 p.m. and returns at 11:00 p.m. Participants must be 21 years or older. Fee is $36, which includes transportation, admission, race program, race dedication and ultimate buffet.

Lets have a sunshine morning as children play games, sing and make a stuffed sunshine bear. Each bear will come with a birth certificate and a take home bag. All creativity takes place on Monday, August 10, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. at Krueger Park Rec. Center, 9100 S. 88th Ave. Registration for children 4 to 8 years: Resident: $17; Non-Resident: $22

Come out to our Family Wii & open gym night. Parents, grandparents, guardians and kids are encouraged to test their skills in Wii bowling, baseball, golf and more. Play Wii, relax, and shoot baskets in Krueger's gym. Participants must be 7 years and up (under 9 years old must be accompanied by an adult). This program will be held Saturday, August 22 from 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. at Krueger Park Rec. Center . Residents $12; Non-Resident $15 (fee includes pizza, soda and water).

Get in gear and mark your calendar for our 2nd annual car show, and this year we are adding a glow off competition Friday, August 28 (rain date Friday, September 4) from 4:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Kasey Meadow Park , 8047 W. 91st Place . Featured at this show will be a 1983 Chevy Pick-Up 1200 Horsepower Blown S-10 truck. A super bouncer will be at the show, so bring the kids. Spectators are free. Register your car in advance for only $15 or $20 at the door.

Former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to speak at SXU

Tickets on sale now for Sept. 17 lecture Tickets are on sale to see Former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the fourth speaker in the highly successful SXU Voices & Visions Speaker Series at Saint Xavier University in Chicago. Annan will speak at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17.

Annan will receive an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree, honoris causa, and present "The Five Rules of International Diplomacy," a call for multilateralism and a renewed faith in a global approach to tackling the world's problems.

General admission tickets are $20, plus service charge. A limited number of $200 priority tickets are available, which include priority seating and admission to an exclusive post-lecture wine and cheese reception with Annan. To purchase tickets, visit www.sxu.edu, Keyword: voices, or call (866) 468-3401.

"We are very pleased that Former Secretary-General Annan continues our tradition of bringing the best of international figures to the Chicago area," said Robert Tenczar, vice president for University Relations. "Mr. Annan is an ideal interpreter for our times and will undoubtedly provide a uniquely informed perspective as America works with other countries to meet the world's challenges."

Annan served as United Nations Secretary-General from 1997 to 2006. During his tenure, he made his mark as an advocate for human rights, the rule of law and the revitalization of the United Nations. He has been a key figure in the fight against HIV/AIDS and a leader of the multilateral response to the global terrorist threat.

When elected to the Secretary-Generalship in 1997, Annan became the first Secretary-General to come directly from the United Nations staff, and the first from a black African nation to hold the position.

As Secretary-General, Annan worked to bolster the United Nation's relationship with businesses and civil society groups, sponsoring a Global Compact initiative to promote corporate social responsibility. He was instrumental in laying out the Millennium Development Goals, a strategy to meet the needs of the world's poorest by 2015. In 2005, Annan succeeded in persuading the United Nations to establish the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council, new intergovernmental bodies dedicated to global peace and welfare. Annan was also a chief proponent of the creation of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. On Dec. 10, 2001, Annan and the United Nations received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Since leaving the United Nations, Annan has continued to press for better policies to meet the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable, particularly in Africa . He has also continued to use his experience to mediate and resolve conflict. In Kenya in early 2008, Annan led the AU Panel of Eminent African Personalities to help find a peaceful resolution to the post-election violence

For more information about the event, please contact the Office of Special Events at (773) 298-3311 or specialevents@sxu.edu, or visit www.sxu.edu, Keyword: voices.

Evergreen Park approves storage ordinance

At the July 20 Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting, the village board approved an ordinance, which adds a section regarding storage containers and refuse dumpsters prohibited to a chapter regarding building and building regulations of the municipal code. A refuse dumpster is considered any container with a capacity greater than four yards - a storage container is considerd any type of truck trailer, PODS container, freight container, and shipping container or a similar type container.

The ordinance requires a permit application to be submitted to the building department along with a $50 deposit. The deposit shall be refunded if the storage container or refuse dumpster is removed within 30 days. A permit will be issued only when the refuse dumpster or storage container is less than 10 feet in height and being used in conjunction with the reconstruction of a residence or moving to or from a residence. The permit is limited to 30 consecutive days in any one calendar year. The building department however is authorized to extend the maximum 30-day period in writing if there are circumstances, which are beyond the control of the property owner, which were not anticipated or foreseen when the permit was originally issued.

A request from the office of senior citizens Director to sell a 1996 diesel mini bus was approved as well as a request from the Evergreen Park Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce to host an October Fest event at on Sat. Oct. 10. A request regarding the annual membership dues for fiscal year 2010 for the Southwest Conference of Mayors was also approved.

Pappas presents award of excellence to Dinosauria Project

Photo caption: Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas (center) presents an award of excellence in her office to Lisa Zago-Martin and Don Pfister, (pictured holding real dinosaur bones) with Dinosauria Project for commitment to education. Through Dinosauria's interactive program, people of all ages can enjoy the excitement of dinosaur hunting and the process that follows a discovery.

Military News

Air Force Airman Nicholas A. Teer graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. He is the son of Donna Wilson of S. Mozart Ave., Evergreen Park, Ill., and John Teer of S. Union St., Chicago,Ill.

Teer is a 2007 graduate of Evergreen Park Community High School.

Air Force Airman Jonathan W. Konieczki graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skill. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. He is the son of Tina Konieczki of W. Ravinia Drive, Tinley Park, Ill. Konieczki is a 2008 graduate of Tinley Park High

Jonathan W. Konieczki

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New candidate for Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner

While candidates for statewide office have been jockeying for positions, one candidate has been pounding the pavement with a message of reform and environmental responsibility. Todd Connor, 31, candidate for Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner, has shown not only his viability but also his front-runner status in only a little more than a month since kicking off his campaign.

The Connor campaign was the first and only campaign to file a D-2 for the position among non-incumbents. To date, he has raised $25,000 from over 200 contributors.

Connor, a Navy Veteran, earned a Navy commendation medal for exemplary wartime service while serving served aboard the USS Bunker Hill during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Returning home, Connor went to work for the Illinois Inspector General to fight waste, fraud, and corruption throughout state government.Connor subse-quently earned an MBA from the University of Chicago and joined Booz Allen Hamilton, a leading management consulting firm.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District is an agency with over 2,100 employees and an annual budget of $1.6 billion. This year alone they will spend more than the CTA. It is responsible for the network of canals, sewers, and waste-processing plants required to manage the area's storm water and water waste.

Connor's experience in working with large bureaucracies in order to derive value, eliminate inefficiency, and root out corruption is well suited for an agency that has long been plagued by waste, inefficiency, and complacency.Since announcing his campaign on June 2nd, the Connor campaign has had a strong presence across Cook County, with four fundraisers, and frequent attendance at ward, county, and township events. Andy Shapero, an experienced fundraiser and field organizer has been hired as the campaign manager and has assembled a robust intern program with 13 full time interns. The campaign office opens this week at 2727 N. Halsted. Describing the campaign, Connor said, "As the would-be-youngest member of this board by over 20 years, I am running a different kind of campaign. We are utilizing Facebook, Twitter, and other social media in ways that have never been done here in Cook County in order to reach people, educate them about this important office, and share our message."

"I believe it's time for new faces to ask new questions," Connor said. "Taxpayers in Cook County have gotten a bad return on their investment. With my background I know the right questions that need to be asked, and I will be asking them from day one. We can do better, in fact a lot better, than we have been doing – both for the environment as well as your pocketbook."

The Victory Fund, an influential national Political Action Committee, has endorsed Todd Connor, recognizing him as a unique, highly qualified, and also viable candidate. The Governor has yet to fill the vacancy left by former Commissioner Pat Young who resigned her Commissioner seat in January 2009 in order to work for the MWRD.

For more information on Todd Connor and his campaign, visit. www.toddconnor.org.

Legion Family Raising Funds for Recovering Heroes

The American Legion family is calling on all Americans to help purchase comfort items for troops recovering in U.S. military hospitals and warrior transition units around the world through its Operation Comfort Warriors campaign."Through Operation Comfort Warriors we have been able to provide items that usually don't appear in the budget, such as personal sweat suits, I-Pods, DVDs, phone calling cards and other comfort items.

The American Legion family has already raised nearly $165,000 for Operation Comfort Warriors since its inception in December.

Donors can make online contributions by visiting www.legion.org/ocw or by sending a check to Operation Comfort Warriors, PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Commissioner Debra Shore addresses A.A.R.P. in Chicago Ridge

Commissioner Debra Shore of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, will speak before the A.A.R.P. #3558 group on Monday, August 10th at 1:30 pm at McDonald Lin V.F.W. Post, 10537 S. Ridgeland, Chicago Ridge.

Loretta Paulus, Vice President, announced that the commissioner will share her expertise on the MWRD.

Commissioner Shore is the Founding Editor and Writer of the Chicago Wilderness and has received many awards for her writing accomplishments. She has degrees from Columbia College , John Hopkins University and Goucher College .

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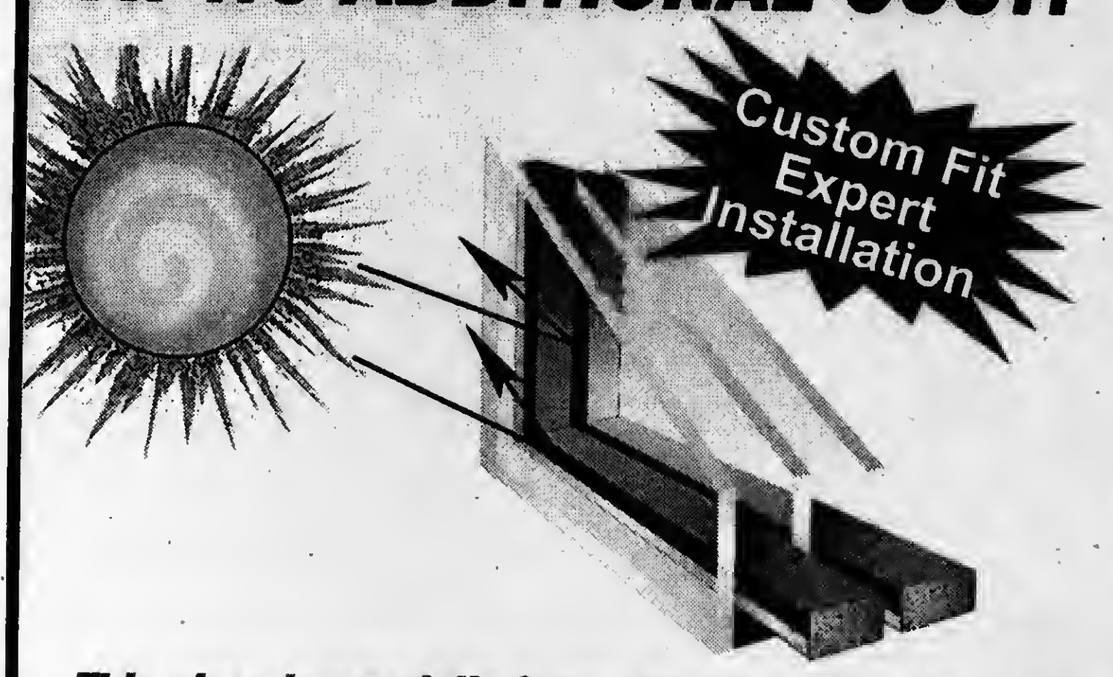

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Pictured, from left to right, are Chicago Bear great Gale Sayers, Commissioner Terrenee J. O'Brien and Ed Kelly.

Ed Kelly hosted 35th annual Giant Awards

Ed Kelly, Executive Director of the Ed Kelly Sports Program and former General Superintendent of Chieago Park District, recently hosted the 35th Annual Giant Awards.

Tribute is paid to honorees that are selected for their eontributions and eommitment they demonstrate in their communities.

One of the Awardees of the 2009 Giant Award evening was Commissioner Terrence J. O'Brien, President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, who received the Thomas Rand Achievement Award.

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In addition, some qualified First Time Homebuyers may be eligible for grants of $2,000- $4,000 based on income, family size and property loeation.

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Things to do in Evergreen Park

Thursday and Friday. August 6 & 7- AARP "Safe Driving Program Class 9am- 1pm @ Community Center 3450 W. 97th St. for ages 50+ eall 422-8776 for more information.

Thursday August 6 , Farmer's Market at Yukich Field 89th and Kedzie Ave. Shop for the freshest in fruit, vegetables, flowers and much more. The market is open from 7am-1pm.

Enjoy all the wonderful aetivities the parks of Evergreen Park have to offer.

Yukich Field 89th and Kedzie Avenue offers a walking path with fitness stops along the way. Bocce Ball at the northwest end of the park.

Duffy Park 92nd and Ridgeway enjoy the tennis courts and playlot and three baseball fields. Bean bag games.

Klein Park 97th and Homan Avenue offers sand volleyball, bean bags, baseball fields and play lot.

Oak Lawn Senior Happenings

On Monday, August 17th at 10:00 a.m. Entertainer Nora Dryschwill return for a repeat performance. Nora will provide a wonderful sentimental journey of the Big Band Era. Refreshments will beserved at the eonclusion of her performance. Following the entertainment at 11:00 a.m. representatives from Advocate Christ Hospital will diseuss diabetie and healthy heart diets. Advoeate always brings important and helpful information to share. On the last Thursday of every month a box lunch is planned.

The day is sponsored by local businesses making it affordable to our seniors. The August sponsor is Suburban Bank and Trust located at 10350 South Cicero. They will offer an "Enjoy" program whieh was created especially for SBT eustomers age 50 and better and offers a paekage of soeial, educational and financial benefits. Program offerings inelude extended tours, interesting excursions, social gatherings, seminars and workshops along with an array of speeial produets and serviees designed to meet members' individual finaneial needs and goals. Tiekets may be purchased at the Senior Center for $3.50. Seating is limited.

For further details on any of the activities, you may eall 499-0240 or stop by the Center, 5330 West 95 Street for a calendar of events.

Expect success at Moraine Valley by taking classes this fall

Moraine Valley Community College ean help students realize their educational goals and prepare for a successful future. Registration is underway for the fall 2009 semester, which starts August 24 with on-eampus eredit elasses. Off-eampus credit classes and on-campus continuing edueation classes begin August 31, and off-eampus continuing education classes begin September 8.

Some of the eollege's eourses are offered in different formats to aceommodate the needs of students, making it easy for people to fit eollege elasses into their life. These Flexible Learning Options include:

- Virtual College classes
- Teleeourses on videotape
- Short-Term Classes
- Weekend Classes
- Off-Campus Classes

A eomplete list of credit and noncredit classes ean be found in the fall 2009 class sehedule or online at morainevalley.edu.

Registration is ongoing. Tuition is $87 per credit hour plus fees and books. Students who have applied to the college ean register in person by visiting the Registration Office, located on eampus in the Student Serviees Center (Building S), 9000 W. College Pkwy. in Palos Hills ; by phone at (708) 974-2110 (TTY for the hearing impaired 708-974-9556); or online at morainevalley.edu.

Weekend classes for working students available at Moraine Valley

Moraine Valley Community College offers weekend classes during the fall 2009 semester. Classes are available to suit an individual student's needs, ineluding:

Fridays only College: Changes, Challenges, Choices, beginning the week of August 24 for eight weeks Friday/Saturday/ Sunday Introduction to Psyehology, beginning Sept. 25 for three weeks

Friday/Sunday Introduetory Microbiology, beginning the week of August 24 for 16 weeks

Saturdays only Security Awareness, beginning the week of Oetober 3 for four weeks Saturday/Sunday Fire Prevention Prineiples I, beginning August 29 for three weeks Sunday Speech Funda-mentals, beginning August 30 for 15 weeks.

A eomplete listing of credit and noneredit elasses can be found online at *morainevalley.edu*.

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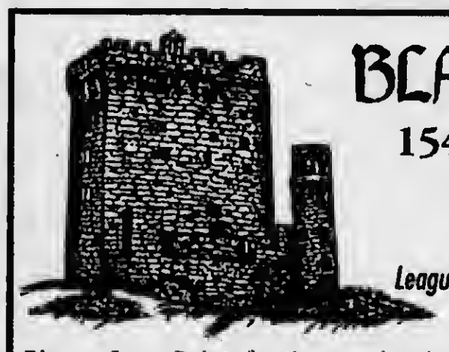
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Adults Playing Kids Games for Kids to Benefit Brenan Youth Services
Kickball Tournament $200 Per Team (Includes T-Shirts) Starts at 1pm

Brennan receives appointment at St. Xavier University

Saint Xavier University announced the appointment of Anne O. Brennan as assistant vice president for recruitment, admission and enrollment planning. Brennan will begin Aug. 10.

Brennan, who was selected after a national search, will be responsible for managing recruitment and enrollment. She will report to Vice President for Student Recruitment and Enrollment Planning Kathleen Carlson, Ph.D.

"Ms. Brennan's extensive background in higher education administration at other outstanding institutions will help more students experience Saint Xavier's unique community as it receives greater recognition as a leading comprehensive Catholic university," said Carlson.

Brennan, of Evergreen Park, has more than 25 years of experience in many areas of university administration, most recently as director of community college part-nerships at DePaul Uni-versity . She previously was assistant dean at DePaul's School of Computer Science, Telecommunications and Information Systems, director of admissions at School of the Art Institute of Chicago and associate director of admissions at University of Southern California .

"I am honored to join Saint Xavier's staff and eager to contribute to the University's goal of helping students get access to the high-quality educations they need in the modern world," Brennan said.

Brennan has a master's degree in communications from DePaul University and a bachelor's degree in education from Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Evergreen Park American Legion Auxiliary holds installation

The American Legion Auxiliary in Evergreen Park will install their new Officers on Saturday, August 8, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. at the American Legion Post 854, 9701 S. Kedzie Ave.

Officers for the 2009-2010 administrative year are: Louise Cechowski, President; Dian Kinahan, 1st Vice President; Nora Cummings and Connie Dixon, 2nd Vice President; Diane Wozniak, Recording Secretary; Patricia Morrin, Corresponding Secretary; Vicky Mile, Treasurer; Esther Claney, Historian; Signe Morgan, Chaplain; and Rose Kwiatkowski and Virginia Staudacher, Sgt.-at-Arms.

The American Legion Auxiliary promotes patriotism and is committed to helping active service men and women, veterans and their dependents, youth in the community, and the community as a whole.

For information about eligibility and membership in the Auxiliary, call Dian Kinahan at 708-229-2129.

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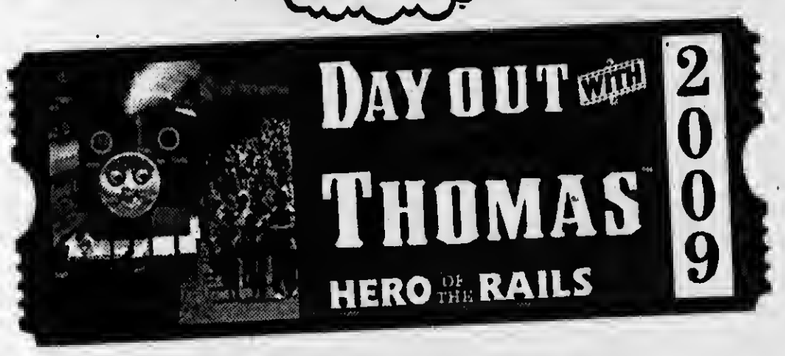

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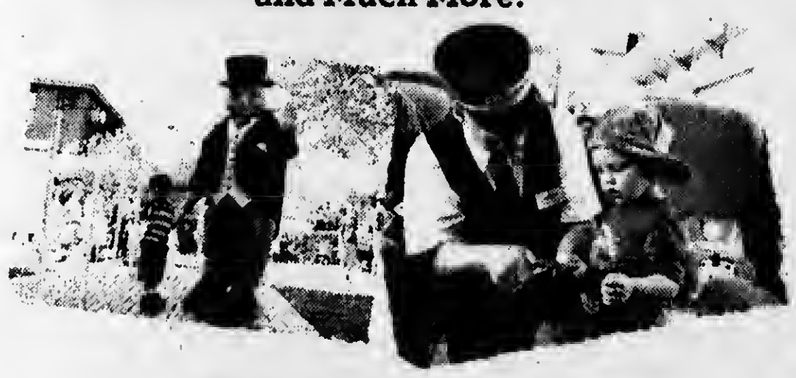

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Oak Lawn Library exhibits the village centennial & historical map

Local history buffs are invited to stop by a large-scale exhibit commemorating the Village of Oak Lawn's Centennial Celebration in the Local History Room of the Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St. Visitors will experience Oak Lawn's rich history as never seen before in this unique exhibit featuring more than 100 photographs and artifacts. The exhibit ends December 30, 2009.

The library's Local History Unit recently launched an online map of historic locations throughout Oak Lawn. Visit the library's web site (www.oaklawnlibrary.org) and select "Oak Lawn Historical Map." Users can then click on specific markers to view a photo and information about each location. More than 50 buildings and landmarks are covered in this interactive historic map. Additional sites will be added over time.

For additional information, call 708-422-4990.

Free Movie: Sense and Sensibility

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will host a free movie screening of the Jane Austin classic "Sense and Sensibility" on Wednesday, August 12 at 10 a.m. This film won an Academy Award for Best Screenplay. It stars Emma Thompson, Kate Winslet and Hugh Grant. Running time: 136 min. Rated: PG. This movie is one of 12 titles featured in the library's weekly "Reel Books" series of films that are based on a book.

For more information, call 708-422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

Library Community Display Cases

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., has two community display cases that may be reserved for one calendar month by individuals, local community groups and organizations interested in exhibiting special collections, handicrafts, activities and creative works. Applications are available at the Reception Booth. For additional information, call Linda Atkins, public relations officer, 708-422-4990.

Worth Township Apple Tree Program and more

The Worth Township Youth Commission is again sponsoring its "Apple Tree Program" for families experiencing financial difficulties. Donations of school supplies are requested from residents of Worth Township . Pencils, pens, folders, scissors, Kleenex, crayons, mechanical pencils, erasable pens, colored pencils, markers, glue, back packs, are needed to fulfill the requests of children within the township.

Families bring in a list of school supplies from their child's school and the request is then filled by Worth Township . Residents can drop off school supplies at Worth Township , 11601 S. Pulaski in Alsip . For further information, please call 371-2900, ext. 45.

The Worth Township Senior Advance Oil Painting Class will be starting again on September 4, 2009. The classes are held on Fridays from 9:00am to 12:00 noon at the Worth Township Center, 11601 S. Pulaski, Alsip. The class will run for 12 weeks and there will be a nominal fee. To register for the class, please call (708) 371-2900 Ext 28

The Worth Township Senior Room will be offering an Exercise Class. It will start September 9, 2009

And it will be held on Wednesdays from 9:30 am to 10:15 am. There will be a nominal fee. The classes will be held in the Worth Township Center, 11601 S. Pulaski, Alsip Please call (708) 371-2900, Ext 28 if you are interested in this class.

The Worth Township Seniors will offer Free Hearing Screeningon Wednesday, September 16, 2009 from 9:00 to 12:00. Last appointment will bat 11:45.This screening is done at the Worth Township Center, 11601 S. Pulaski, Alsip.You MUST be a Worth Township Resident to participate. Appointments are necessary. Please call (708) 371-2900, Ext. 28 From 9:00 to 4:00

The Worth Township Seniors will offer Free Vision Screening on Thursday, September 10, 2009 from 9AM – Noon . Last appointment will be at 11:45. This screening is done at the Worth Township Center 11601 S. Pulaski, Alsip . You MUST be a Worth Township Resident to participate. Appointments are necessary. Please call (708) 371-2900 , Ext. 28

The Worth Township Seniors will offer Free Vision Screening on Thursday, September 10, 2009 from 9AM – Noon .Last Appointment will be at 11:45 This screening is done at the Worth Township Center, 11601 S. Pulaski, Alsip. You MUST be a Worth Township Resident to participate. Appointments are necessary. Please call (708) 371-2900 , Ext. 28

The Worth Township Senior Room will be offering a Jewelry Making Class. It will start on September 29, 2009 from 12:30 am to 2:30 pm for 12 weeks. There will be a nominal fee. The classes will be held in the Worth Township Center, 11601 S. Pulaski, Alsip Please call if you are interested in this class. 708) 371-2900, Ext 28

Worth Park District hold brunch

The Worth Park District Lunch Bunch is traveling to a new location on august 19th. Tickets are $8 for residents, $12 for non residents. Order what you like on the menu on the day of the trip. Additional fee for your choice of food. All are welcome to attend. Space is limited. Register now by calling 708 448 7080.

Stickney Township offers massage therapy

Stickney Township Supervisor, Louis S. Viverito announces massage therapy at the Senior Center. Kathy Deubel-Pipien, licensed massage therapist, will be performing massage. therapy every other Tuesday at the Louis S. Viverito Senior Center in Burbank , IL . You must be 60 years of age to participate.

The cost is $10 for a 30 minute back or leg massage or $15 for a 30 minute full body massage. Kathy performs massages on a massage table or in a chair for your convenience. Gift certificates are available for purchase.

To make an appointment please call Stickney Township Office on Aging at (708) 636-8850.

Pilgrim Faith Church continues concert series

Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ will present its third show this summer in its concert series, "Saturday in the Park," with the RightTidys and Active Update from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, on the church property at 94th Street and 51st Avenue in Oak Lawn.

The RightTidys, a popular Chicago-based power-pop band, plays alternative, smooth rock. More information about the band can be found at www.myspace.com/therighttidys.

Their influences include the Pretenders, Jets to Brazil, the Replacements, Van Go, Cheap Trick and the Clash.

Active Update, the opening band, includes Chris Hanus, a member of our church.

Attendees at the free concert may dance or just sit and listen. Concert goers should bring lawn chairs or blankets.

Refreshments will be available for purchase.

In case of inclement weather, the concert will be held on the lower level of the church building.

Further information is available by calling the church at (708) 422-4200.

Friday night movies on the Village Green

The Village of Oak Lawn and the Oak Lawn Park District are sponsoring a summer movie night on Friday, August 14, 2009. E.T. The Extraterrestrial, rated PG tells the story of a lone alien that gets left behind on Earth. Friday Night Movies begin at dusk!

Movies are FREE and no reservations are required. Bring your own refreshments and don't forget your blankets or lawn chairs. Food will be available from Oak Lawn Cub Scouts, Christensen's Wagon, and Millie's Ice Cream.

The Village Green is located north of the Oak Lawn Library and directly east of the Municipal Center , 9446 Raymond Avenue . For more information about the Friday Night Movie Series, please contact Chad Weiler at (708) 499-7837 or email cweiler@oaklawn-il.gov or visit our website at www.oaklawn-il.gov.

Jazzercise dance fitness classes holds grand opening

Jazzercise dance-fitness classes will open at the Worth Park Dist. 11500 Beloit starting Sept. 1st. Jazzercise instructor Karen Krzos will hold a Grand Opening on Monday August 31 at 9:30AM. Interested participants can try a free trial class at no charge.

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Telecourses offered at Moraine Valley Community College

Moraine Valley offers telecourses this fallMoraine Valley Community College offers several telecourses in the fall 2009 semester. Telecourses offer flexibility and convenience by providing classes on video, allowing students to attend a limited number of class meetings, set up their own study hours and work at their own pace while earning college credit.

This fall's telecourse offerings include American National Government, Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Psychology, General Sociology, and Life-Span Developmental Psychology. Students enrolled in telecourses can check out videotapes or DVDs from the college library, as well as public libraries in Alsip, Blue Island, Bridgeview, Burbank, Calumet Park, Crestwood, Justice, Oak Lawn, Orland Park, and Robbins.

For more information about telecourses, call the college's Alternative Learning Department at (708) 974-5710. A complete listing of credit and noncredit classes can be found in the fall 2009 class schedule or online at morainevalley.edu.

Registration is ongoing. Tuition is $87 per credit hour plus fees and books. Students who have applied to the college can register in person by visiting the Registration Office, located on campus in the Student Services Center (Building S), 9000 W. College Pkwy. in Palos Hills; by phone at (708) 974-2110 (TTY for the hearing impaired 708-974-9556); or online at morainevalley.edu.

Summer Fun at Chicago Adler Planetarium

by Annette Dixon

One Small Step: Apollo 2, 40th Anniversary has been celebrated in the month of July, but the good news is that there is a permanent exhibition at the Adler that shows the highlights of space exploration and Astronaut Jim Lovell's donated artifacts. The exhibit is called Shoot to the Moon, which includes Jim Lovell's and Buzz Aldrin's Gemini 12 spacecraft from 1966.

The exhibit holds an 8 year old's attention or any child of any age interested in space. Jim Lovell's Apollo 8 Flight Suit is on display along with Apollo 11 Penlight, Apollo 13 Control/service Module Malfuntion Manual, Apollo 13 Optical Sight, Apollo 13 Lunaqr Surface Helmet & Gloves, Apollo 15 Moon Rock.

The Adler Planetarium is America's first planetarium and was founded in 1930 by Chicago business leader, Max Adler. Today there are several expansions to the original building and many more exhibits to experience.

Within the three level complex, there are over 20 exhibits along with a Sky Show Theatre and other entertainment theatres.

The Adler Planetarium is located at 1300 South Lake Shore Drive in Chicago. You can call for tickets at 312-922-STAR or visit the web www.adlerplanetaium.org

Local girl brings home National Title

Arielle Macey-Pilcher, resident of Palos Heights recently captured first place in the tumbling division at the U.S. Junior Olympic Trampoline and Tumbling National Championships in San Jose, California.

A little background about Arielle is that her twin brother, Aaron, also studied gymnastics. They both started when they were in first grade. Surely the discipline that they endured brought them both to higher levels. Arielle continued with special coaching and many summers where spent competing around the country.

Arielle diversified her talent by accomplishing a musical career and when entering Shepard High School, played Alto Sax in the band.

Being an all around student, Arielle competed in diving, track and field, cheerleading and competing for 3-D Gymnastics in Alsip. She won Illinois and Regional titles before competing in the national finals.

It takes endurance, discipline, and talent to get this far in her career. It certainly didn't come overnight. Congratulations on such an extraordinary feat and maybe some day we will see you in the summer U.S. Olympics.

Arielle Macey-Pilcher is the granddaughter of Donald and Joyce Macey of Evergreen Park.

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Linda will give you all the details at
312-624-8996.

Vendors needed for Worth Days Festival

The Village of Worth is looking for crafters/vendors and food vendors who would be interested in displaying and selling their goods at the annual Worth Days Festival. This event is to be held on Friday, September, 11 through Sunday, September, 13.

For more information regarding an application, please visit our website at www.villageofworth.com or contact Nikki at 708. 448 1181.

School begins for District 124 Students

Children attending Evergreen Park Elementary School District 124 will begin the 2009-2010 school year on Thursday, August 27th. On August 27th and 28th students in grades 1 through 8, will begin school at 8:30 a.m. and will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. August 2[illegible] will be the first day for the Before School Program. The first day for Early Childhood, Pre-kindergarten, Kindergarten and the After School Program will be August 31st. The individual building Principals will notify the Kindergarten parents of their child's school hours.

New Student/Kindergarten registration, will take place on August 12, 2009 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. and 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at Central Junior High School .

Please bring your photo ID card, your child's original birth certificate with county seal, social security number and two forms of proof of residency-one item from each group: a copy of your mortgage papers, current homeowner's insurance policy, or apartment lease listing all tenants with certificate of inspection and proof of last month's rent payment and a current gas, electric, credit card, cable, water or phone bill. Payment of school fees or arrangements to pay fees will take place at registration.

Returning students, will be continuing the residency verification process and fee payment days on the dates listed below. All families will be required to bring back the completed emergency form, current lease and two forms of proof of residency-one item from each group: a current gas, electric, credit card, cable, water, or phone bill, and a bank statement, mortgage statement, pay check stub or medicard statement. At this time we would also ask that you pay school fees or make arrangements to pay fees.

Thursday, August 13 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Friday, August 14 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Monday, August 17 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 18 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Please note that fees will not be accepted by mail.

School information may be picked up in all schools on Thursday, August 20, 2009 from 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Your child's information will not be made available to you without residency confirmation and a receipt from the Business Office.

Please attend one of the dates listed above prior to August 20th to avoid delays at your child's school.

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Moraine Valley offers adult learner information sessions

If you're an adult considering college, but concerned how you'll fit classes around your family, job, and other responsibilities, Moraine Valley Community College can help. Moraine Valley offers free adult information sessions Wednesdays, Aug. 5 and 12, and Sept. 2, at 6 p.m., in the Student Union (Building U) Formal Dining Room, U111, on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. An off-campus session will be held Aug. 19, at 7 p.m., at the Palos Heights Public Library, 12501 S. 71st Ave.

The audience for these sessions includes adults who have never stepped foot onto a college campus, adults who are in a career transition and students who have taken classes at the college but have not pursued a degree. This is an opportunity to get a sense of the college scene before committing to college coursework.

During these sessions, college staff will discuss details about the college and the benefits of a college education. Career programs and degrees are explained, as well as programs and resources offered to low-income adults, displaced workers and adults returning to the workplace. The information sessions will conclude with a question-and-answer session. Opportunities to apply for enrollment are available that evening. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call Moraine Valley's Admissions Office at (708) 974-5355, or e-mail admissions@morainevalley.edu.

It is not to late to advertise your Home Improvement Company. Rates start at $15 and up in 17 plus South Suburbs. Call for details ask for Linda 312-624-8996

Photo caption: Mother McAuley students (left to right) Eboni Price, Clare Nawrocki, Kara Fleharty, Tania Velasquez and Mary Kobiernicki (not pictured) were selected as 2009 Excellence in Service Honorees.

Mother McAuley 2009 Excellence in Service Award Winners

Each year, Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School takes pride in recognizing students for their contributions to the school and community. The 2009 Excellence in Service honorees are Eboni Price of Morgan Park; Mary Kobiernicki, Clare Nawrocki and Kara Fleharty of Oak Lawn; and Tania Velasquez of Ashburn.

Students are nominated by the faculty and staff and are chosen by the Women's History Month Committee. Service work is an essential dimension of the mission of the school and McAuley students annually volunteer more than 26,000 hours of service to their school and community.

Letter to the Editor

To Whom It May Concern: My husband, 9 month old son and I decided to head out to the Ridge Fest for the first time ever on Sunday, July 26, 2009. Not being citizens of Chicago Ridge, we needed to pay an entrance fee of $10.00 per person. We, unfortunately, are currently unemployed, but both realize this helps out the community and the costs it endures for having such a large event that we realize it's a necessity that we are willing to pay for entrance to the event. As we are walking through the festival we approach the gaming tents.

A gentleman approaches us and says, "Let me show you how to play at no charge", my husband and I take him up on this. Both my husband and I throw a ball into a bucket and the gentleman explains how the game works. We decide that there is no harm in playing and I decide to play. I then start the game with the help of the carnival employee learning as we go that I need to make ten acceptable attempts to getting the ball into the bucket to win a prize and my money back. Upon a miss, you must then double your money invested in order to continue to reach ten successful balls into the bucket.

The gentleman explains to us that walking away is how they make their money, that the owner got his new golf cart, vehicles and 4 wheelers by those that walk away. We decide to try and get our money back as I miss sinking ball after ball. At this point, I have sunk nine balls and need one more, but we have already invested $80.00 into this game and would need to invest another $80.00 in order to have another opportunity. We decide to try and get our money back and I, unfortunately, miss. We would need to invest another $160.00 in order to try again.

My husband and I decide to walk away with the loss we already endured. I made the mistake of beginning this game and chasing my money along the way. In the end, I realize I was explained the details of the game and do not expect any money back, but I do think it was inappropriate that in the middle of a kid's carnival at the Ridgefest such a game existed. I didn't't realize until we got home that it was all very inappropriate that someone (myself) spent $160.00 at a children's game in the middle of a festival and very well could have spent more if I didn't't walk away.

Unfortunately, I made a very bad decision of continuing the game, but I was trying to win our money back and being unemployed right now, I was desperate. I just want to warn everyone out there that these games do exist at local festivals and are inappropriate. I would also like to suggest to the City of Chicago Ridge that they pay attention to what kind of games they are allowing at their festival and not allow such game. I look forward to coming again next year, but not playing any of the carnival games of course!

Editor's note: Carnival con-artists are the best! They usually learned their tricks in prison or learned their trade from Gypsies or anyone who practises conning people for many years. It is unfortunate that the village authorities allowed such games to be in their vicinity. The money made I'm sure didn't go to the village and only a small percentage from the carnival in retrospect went to the village. Learn from the best and if you are not a con artist don't play. Obviously you are too young to remember the weekly carnivals in Chicago, or Riverview or Kiddieland in which the carney men flourished.

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Pictured John B. Boss as Kama Sutra, Kendel Lester as Gina and Dustin Hamilton as Dick

Turban Renewal gender bending actor takes over role in long running Chicago hit

Local cult fave and infamous gender bender John B. Boss(OAK LAWN RESIDENT) (joined by Kendel Lester as Gina and Dustin Hamilton as Dick, pictured, assumes a new position as Swami Comonowannagetonya in Chicago's polysexual musical cabaret revue, "Kama Sutra Vegas Bound and Gagged" playing in at Davenport's Piano Bar and Cabaret, 1383 N. Milwaukee Avenue on Saturdays at 10:30 pm beginning August 8, 15, 22nd and 29th).

Boss recently played the role of Roger DeBris in "The Producers" in two suburban offerings. Other recent gender-bending roles have been Albin in "La Cage Aux Folles" at Little Theatre On The Square in Sullivan Illinois, and Mary Sunshine in "Chicago" at Star Plaza Theatre in nearby Merrillville Indiana.

Directed and staged by Buddy Reeder, assisted by Kendel Lester, and powered by Musical Director Michael Carlson's Pussycat Dolls-inspired musical tracks, "Kama Sutra" was created by Grammy Award Winning writer Terry Abrahamson.

Following the song-by-song resuscitation of young Gina and Dick's lackluster lustlife by Boss's 1800 year old swami, Kama Sutra, enters it's fifth month of the current incarnation of its four year run as the destination of choice for Chicago's more adventurous Bachelorette Parties and swingers groups opting for a theatrical facilitator that gives consenting couples plenty to talk about.

Energized by non-stop audience interplay building to a musical chairs Sybaris hot tub suite giveaway every show, Kama Sutra has brought down the house at Northwestern University Sex Week and hosted Meet-Ups, birthdays and even a Senior Citizen outing from The Breakers Retirement Community in Chicago's Edgewater area.

For more information email to to our website at www.kamasutrathemusical.com

Song samples are available at www.cdbaby.com/cd/kamasutra. There is no nudity in the show, however it is recommended for adults 21 and over.

The show has a $20 cover and two drink minimum.

For tickets call 773-456-5262.

Footloose and announcements at Theatre at the Center

By Marijo Doody

The current running production Footloose is about a backward town and the people in it at Theatre at the Center (TAC). It has marvelous choreography (Stacey Flaster-director-choreographer). The first act needs a little tightening. Footloose' main characters are well cast and include Matt Raftery and Andrea Prestinaro.. Can they dance!

Larry Adams and Cory Goodrich are wonderful, vocally, Larry as always! The story is about teenage rebellion, in a nice way that involves dance. The show runs through mid August and young audiences would like it.

Speaking about young audiences, TAC, has announced the programming for young audiences for 2009-10. Included are Alice in Wonderland, The Story of the Little Mermaid, Freedom Train and The Diary of Ann Frank. The first two run Oct 7-10 and Nov 30-Dec 14. Group tickets are weekdays at 9:30 and 11:15 am. and selected Sat afternoon public performances.

For schedule and tickets for TAC events call 219-836-3255. TAC is located 1040 Ridge Road Munster, less than 30 minutes from most areas.

Light Opera Works stages My Fair Lady

Light Opera Works, located in Evanston is staging Lerner and Loewe's famed "My Fair Lady" August 15-Aug 30.

The casting includes Nicholas Sandys (Henry Higgins) in LOW debut, Natalie Ford (Eliza), Jeff MacMullen (Freddy) LOW debut, Bill Chamberlain (Pickering) and Cary Lovett (Doolittle).

The creative team includes LOW Artistic Director Rudy Hogenmiller (director), Stacey Flaster (choreographer), Nick Mozak (scenic design), Deborah Lindell (props), Jill Van Brusse (costume), Andrew Meyers (lighting), Miles Polaski (sound), Marvin Riebe (hair/make-up) and Jennifer Thusing (stage mgr) and Page Keedy (production mgr).

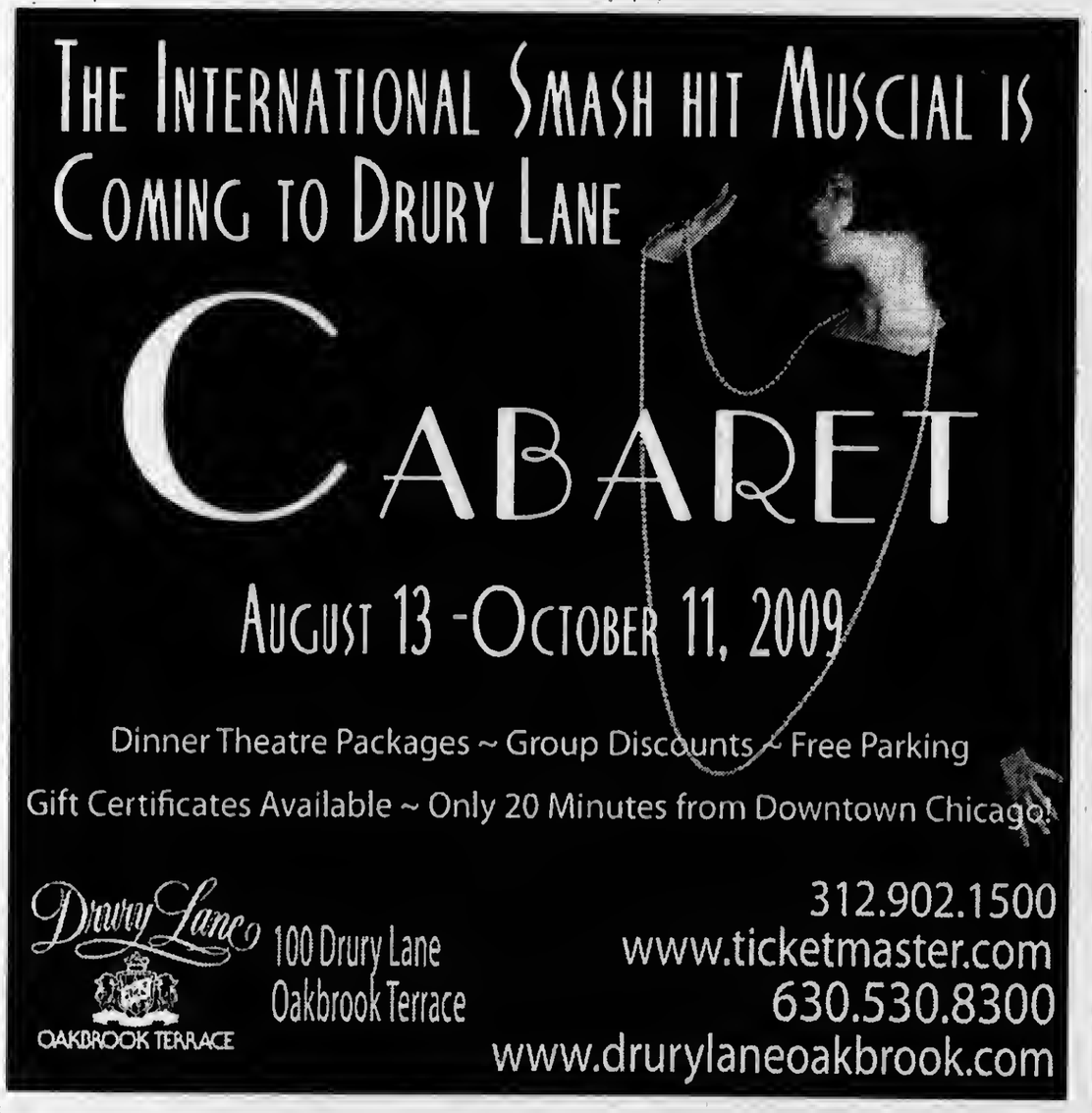
For tickets call 847-869-6300 or online at www.lightoperaworks.com.

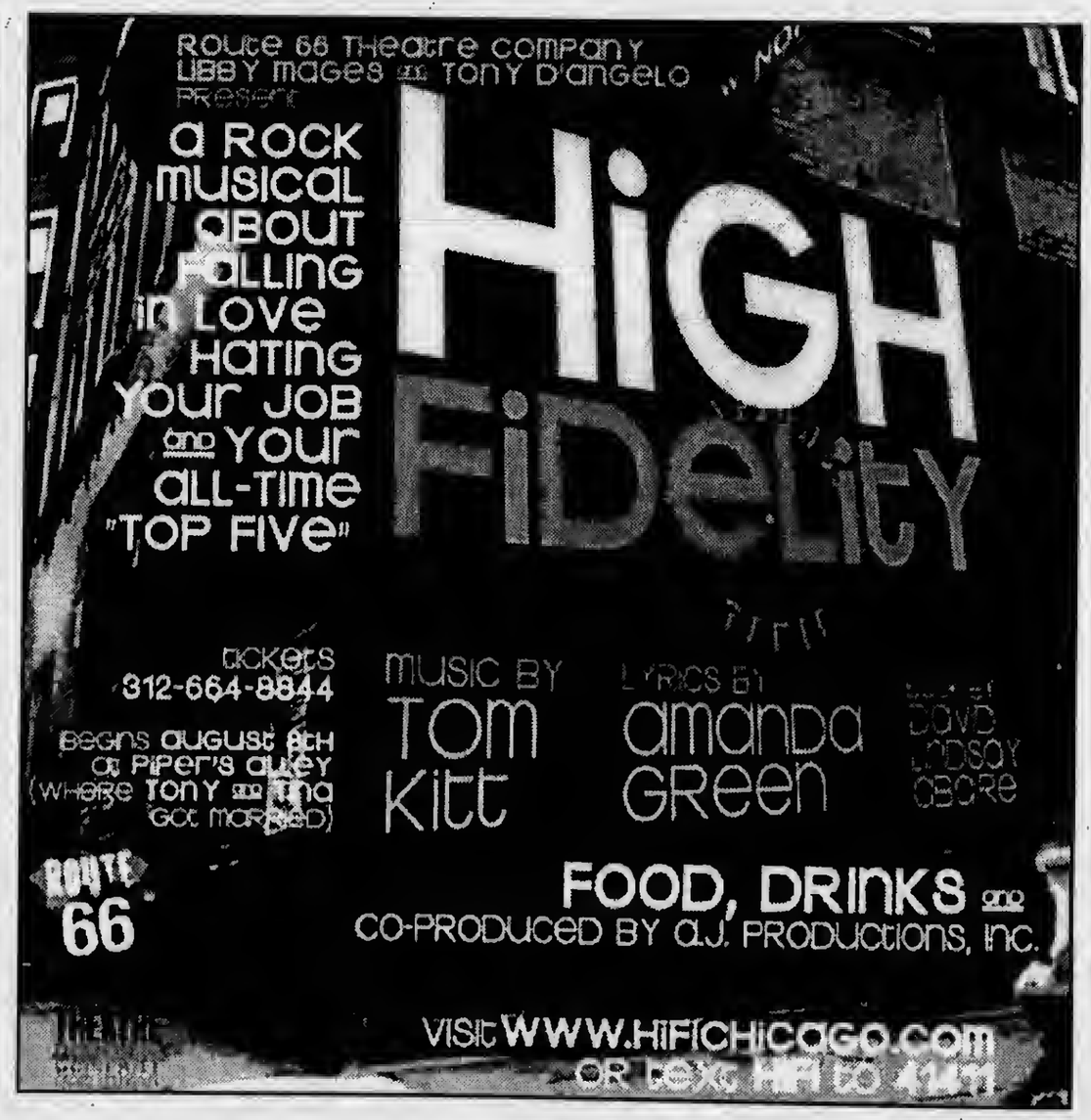
Pinnacle Productions is proud to announce the CD release *Dreamscapes* by Dave Gallagher

Dave Gallagher, Oak Lawn resident, also youngest Oak Lawn former Library Board Trustee to be elected in Oak Lawn, was recently praised by the Chicago Sun Times for his "far-reaching, emotion-packed vocals." Pop vocalist, Dave Gallagher has performed to acclaim all over the country. The CD is a collection of pop ballads featuring songs from award winning and platinum selling composers.

Among the recording's highlights are a remake of the Johnny Mathis classic *Arianne*, which has earned Dave praise from its Grammy Award winning composer Martin Charnin and *In The Winter*, which features a revised lyric especially for Dave's recording by its composer Janis Ian. The recording is available September 15th on amazon.com, iTunes and www.myspace.com/

You can call 708-401-4550, 773-918-6368 or email pinnacleprod@aol.com or www.myspace.com/davegsings.





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Obituary

Edward J. Nowak, at the age of 92, a resident of Oak Lawn, IL. Was a World War II U.S. Army Veteran. And a laborer for Crane Plumbing Manufacturing Co.

Beloved husband of the late Florence T. nee Pozniak, loving father of Patricia A. [Wayne] Earnest, dear Dziadz of Jonathan; dear brother of the late Emily [late Leo] Nosalik. Uncle, cousin and friends to many.

Funeral was at Wolniak Funeral Home in Chicago, and Mass was at St. Gerald Church in Oak Lawn, IL. and then to Interment Resurrection Cemetery.

For further information contact Wolniak Funeral Home at 773-767-4500 or www.wolniakfuneralhome.com.

Obituaries

Paula Furtner nee Schmidt, age of 81. Beloved wife of the late Walter; fond daughter of the late Karl and late Barbara of Austria; cherished sister of Helga [late Armandus] Gerold, Adolf [Traudi], Ernst [Erika], late Josef [Angela] Schmidt and the late Maria [late Alois] Hrazdera; loving aunt of Walter, Alfred [Shing-Chao] and John; also survived by nieees, nephews and other relatives in Europe.

Long time dedicated employee of Little Company of Mary Hospital, as Payroll Supervisor. Paula Furtner lived in Palos Hills, IL, and birthplace was Austria.

Funeral and Prayer Serviee was held at Kosary Funeral Home in Evergreen Park, IL. For more information please call 708-499-3223.

Mary Margaret Hadley at the age of 90. Loving daughter of the late Clifford and late Naomi; dear sister of the late Lowell [late Hildegard] and late Clifford [Betty Lou]; beloved Aunt of Alan [Lynn] David; Stephen [Naney], Thomas [Deborah] and the late Richard [Gail] Hadley. Also survived by other relatives.

Life long member of Calvary Lutheran Church. Devoted Sunday School teacher for over 65 years. Also a Clerical, Airline.

Funeral Serviee was at the Kosary Funeral Home in Evergreen Park, IL, Mass at Calvary Lutheran Church in Chicago, IL. and then to Interment Bethania Cemetery. For details call 708-499-3223.

Irene D. Oling, at the age 85. Residenee was in Chicago. Irene was Bookkeeper for the Board of Edueation - Distriet #123. Loving mother of Maryann [Stephen] Daker, Barbara and James; eherished grandmother of Stefanie, Joseph and Jaequeline; dear sister of the late Felieia Masterson.

Funeral was at Kosary Funeral Home in Evergreen Park, IL, and then to Chapel at St. Barnabas Church for Mass, and follows to Interment Resurrection Cemetery. For more information call 708-499-3223.

Henry R. Teske, at the age of 82, lived in Hometown, IL. Mr. Teske was a printer.

Tree Service

Beloved husband of the late Alma Kay; dear father of Pam and Terry [Louise]; loving grandfather of Rita and Andrew; fond brother of Adolph Jr. [late Dorothy] and the late Christel [late Edward] Klopke. Also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral was at the Koasry Funeral Home, in Evergreen Park, IL, Mass at Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Chureh in Chieago, IL. and then to Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. For more details contact 708-499-3223.

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Obituary

George J. Fisher, at the age of 72. Was a US Army Vet., Korean War.

Beloved husband and best friend of Barbara nee Cunningham; loving father of George [Tammy] and Kevin [Barbara] Fisher; proud grandpa of Cory and Lake; caring brother in law of the late Joanne & Lloyd Arroyo, Maureen & Rich Terry, Rita & Joe Giampa, Ed & Pat Cunningham, Peg & Rich Hanrahan, Pat Cunningham and Tom & Eileen Cunningham; fond uncle of many nieces and nephews.

Former employee of Harris Bank Trust Department, Member of American Legion Post #854.

Funeral was at Kosary Funeral Home in Evergreen Park, IL.. Chapel was at St. Thomas More Church for mass, and then to Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. For more information on Mr Fisher please call 708-499-3223.

Painting Workshop Coming to Palos Heights

Artist Lenox Wallace will offer Plein Aire Watercolor Field Trips on Thursday and Friday, August 20 and 21, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lake Katherine Nature Preserve in Palos Heights.

The workshop will include both demonstration by Wallace and outdoor painting by students of Lake Katherine's gardens, landscapes, and water features, with a special focus on brush handling to create the intimation of trees, foliage, flowers, and water.

The two-day workshop cost $50. Students bring their own supplies and a bag lunch. Some previous watercolor experience is neeessary. The group will meet by the waterfall at Lake Katherine.

Advance registration is required at The Center, 12700 Southwest Highway, Palos Park. Call (708) 361-3650.

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Far South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 15

August 4, 2009

Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing 2009

Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce President elect John Bibeau and Dave Corradino greet Orland Park Trustee Pat Gira at the Chamber's annual Golf Outing held at Silver Lake Country Club.

Northwestern University Football Coach Pat Fitzgerald Photo courtesy of Northwestern University

Pat Fitzgerald To Attend Kids' Day at the Taste of Orland Park

NU's Football Coach Returns to Youth Football Field.

Northwestern University Football Coach Pat Fitzgerald is returning to the field where he played youth football as an Orland Park Pioneer.

On Saturday, August 1, the Village of Orland Park will host Kids' Day at the Taste of Orland Park, offering an afternoon of free activities and sports demonstrations for children. Fitzgerald and some of the Northwestern University football players will host the Northwestern Athletics booth at Kids' Day, signing autographs and greeting visitors from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

"We're thrilled to have Pat Fitzgerald join us for Kids' Day at the Taste of Orland Park," said Mayor Dan McLaughlin. "The Humphrey Complex is the perfect setting for Coach Fitzgerald to greet the young people of the community as that's where he played youth football as an Orland Park Pioneer," the mayor added.

Kids' Day at the Taste of Orland Park will be held at the John Humphrey Sports Complex, 14700 West (100th) Avenue, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Free activities include crafts, a moon jump, sports demonstrations, Family Water Balloon Toss, Family Egg Drop, Touch A Truck, emergency vehicles and more.

Fitzgerald is returning to his hometown to invite the community to attend Orland Park Day at Northwestern University on September 12 when the Wildcats play Eastern Michigan . All Orland Park residents can purchase end zone tickets at half price, $13.00 each.

"We invite everyone to come to Orland Park Day at the Northwestern football game on September 12," McLaughlin said. "We're hoping for a great turn out to show Orland Park's support for one of our own Coach Fitzgerald," the mayor added.

Tickets must be purchased in advance and to receive the Orland Park Day code, attendees must email wildcatmarketing@northwestern.edu. Public safety officials and members of the armed forces are admitted for free as part of the university's Heroes' Day observance.

Further information about Kids' Day at the Taste of Orland Park is available by calling the village's Recreation Department at 708/403-PARK and on the village's website at www.orland-park.il.us

Charity Benefit for Pickens children

A charity benefit will be held for the Pickens children of Orland Park on Friday, August 14, 2009 from 7:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. at Gaelic Park, 6119 West 147th Street in Oak Forest.

Admission is $30 at the door. Donations may also be sent to the Pickens Children's Trust; Town Center Bank; 505 North LaGrange Road; Frankfort, IL 60423. For more information, call 815-806-7001.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke announces $616,441 Recovery Act Grant to create jobs, boost development in Milledgeville, Illinois

WASHINGTON - U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke announced a $616,441 Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to the Village of Milledgeville, Ill., to help build roadways and sewer service for a new industrial park. The project, made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), is expected to create additional jobs and generate private investment in the region.

"The Obama Administration is committed to creating jobs, encouraging innovation and improving our nation's economic competitiveness," Locke said. "This grant will help create new jobs and boost private investment by building the infrastructure needed to serve a new industrial park."

The Recovery Act was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. It is providing immediate relief for American families and jump-starting billions of dollars in new projects that are creating jobs, improving infrastructure and strengthening local economies.

"A new industrial park will enhance Milledgeville's ability to attract new industry and foster economic expansion," U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin said. "Today's Recovery Act funding will accelerate the project while creating good paying jobs within the community."

"Milledgeville is demonstrating innovative approaches to regional economic and community development," U.S. Sen. Roland Burris said. "Projects like these show how engaged local leadership can provide its citizens with the best chance at leveraging federal and state dollars, and the progress that can be made when we all work together."

The Department of Commerce is a voice for Main Street businesses. It focuses on creating jobs by fostering innovation and opening markets to U.S. products.

EDA is an agency within the U.S. Commerce Department and supports the economic development needs of distressed communities throughout the United States. Its mission is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness and preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy.

Additional information on how EDA investments are helping distressed communities create a positive and sustainable economic future can be accessed at: http://www.eda.gov.

MetroSouth Medical Center is celebrating their 1st anniversary

On August 12, 2009, MetroSouth Medical Center leadership and staff will gather with local dignitaries to celebrate the 1st anniversary and phenomenal milestones achieved to-date by an essential community hospital that was set to permanently close its doors in spring 2008. Founded in 1905 as St. Francis Hospital & Health Center, the previous owners had experienced $40 million in losses over several years and projected another $20 million for 2008. Unable to find a buyer and with great sadness, the then parent company announced in April 2008 that the hospital must close. But it didn't.

Thanks to the efforts of a new investment and leadership team, along with physicians and staff who remained on board and determined to keep the hospital and #1 employer in Blue Island, Ill., open, the hospital began operations on July 30, 2008 under a new brand – MetroSouth Medical Center. New strategies, capitalization and efforts to expand the institution's patient services, technologies, and tentacles into the community are producing impressive progress.

Even as the new leadership team's initial pursuits coincided with the nation's worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, the hospital already was demonstrating significant signs of a turnaround in its first five months of operation. "MetroSouth Medical Center stemmed the losses before the end of 2008 – and the hospital is breaking even in 2009," said President and CEO Arnie Kimmel of MetroSouth Medical Center. "While we have much hard work to do, our future looks promising. We have a first-class management team, and we have every expectation that with continued hard work and support from our excellent staff our progress will continue."

A few examples of highlights to date include:

·During a time when many companies have been experiencing layoffs, MetroSouth retained the overwhelming majority of St. Francis Hospital staff and hired nearly 300 additional employees over the past 12 months.

·The recruitment and relocation of the entire Women's Service from Michael Reese Hospital brought to MetroSouth Medical Center 10 new obstetricians and new perinatologists, midwives and neonatologists, significantly expanding the hospital's services and coverage for moms-to-be, including those with high-risk pregnancies. There is now an obstetrician in-house 24-hours, 7-days a week. These changes already have produced a 20 percent increase in the number of babies born at the hospital, expanding the highly regarded institution's longstanding reputation as a top heart hospital to other specialties, as well.

·Significant investment in Information Technology: A full hospital conversion to all electronic health records is under way. MetroSouth Medical Centers' emergency room has been paperless for several months, reducing the duration of emergency patients' time spent in the ER by one-third. The reputation of the upgraded emergency department also is catching on, producing a 15 percent increase in patient volume in the ER over the past 12 months.

·Technological improvements include the addition of a CT scanner and digital imaging, which allows multiple physicians to review and discuss patient images on and offsite. Patient-centered facility improvements include conversion of the hospital to all-private rooms, currently in progress and scheduled for completion by year-end.

·Expansion of MetroSouth's primary care base through the opening of new practices throughout the hospital's primary service area. The goal was the addition of approximately six to eight primary care physicians per year; by October 2009, 11 new practitioners will be on board with offices in and around Blue Island, including in Morgan Park, South Holland, Alsip and Orland Park.

·Extensive community outreach to foster the health of area residents and drive awareness of the hospital: Every business in the area has been contacted and offered free health screenings and education for their employees at any desired frequency.

These are just a few examples of exciting changes that have taken place during MetroSouth Medical Center's phenomenal first year. We would like to put you in touch with CEO Arnie Kimmel to discuss the hospital's anniversary celebration, which we hope you and your photographers will attend, as well as achievements to date and plans for the future.

The 8U Orland Shockers win their 3rd consecutive tournament

They recently won the 16-team New Lenox Summer Scorcher. Their record was 5-0 and they outscored their opponents 62-4 in this very competitive tournament.

Pictured are (left to right) FRONT ROW: Tyler Skrabis (Batboy), Bryce Barnett, Jason Pygon, Ashley Wood, Jake Pygon, Dylan Jacobs, Andrew Palmblad (Batboy) & Kevin McCormick (Batboy).

MIDDLE ROW: Nick Skrabis, Jack Payton, Matt McCormick, Thomas Cavanaugh, Brian Adams, Ryan Palmblad & Michael Lawlor.

BACK ROW: Mike Skrabis, Mike Wood, Mark Adams & Russ Barnett (All Coaches).

Acorn Public Library announces photography program

The Acorn Public Library will host an educational photography program on Thursday August 6 2009 at 7 PM. This program, entitled Let's Talk Photography!, will be presented by the library's own photographer, Henry Van Westrop. This program will be a hands on work-shop designed to help people take better pictures. Attendees are encouraged to bring both their cameras and their questions.

Mr. Van Westrop will bring some of his com-mercial photographic equip-ment and the discussion will cover both traditional and digital photography. This program will be limited to 25 at-tendees, so please register in advance.

Mr. Van Westrop has decades of experience as a professional photographer in the area. He has also already presented a pro-gram at several libraries that explored his experi-ences as a photographer in the Pacific during World War II.

Acorn Public Library is located at 15624 S. Central Avenue in Oak Forest. Interested individuals should call (708) 687-3700 to register their attendance. This program is offered free to the public.

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Photo Caption: The Cast of "Deal or New Deal" Raises a Toast to Prohibition Pictured from left to right: Becca Long, Brian Gore, Joey Scavuzzo, Billy Carrig, Sabrina Pratt, Maria Randazzo, Travis Williams, and Chris Genovese.

Tinley Park Residents Provide Comic Stimulus in "DEAL OR NEW DEAL

Imagine an intoxicated FDR hosting a loony fireside chat, a star struck Adolph Hitler writing Walt Disney a fan letter, or a shy Einstein being solicited to be a male escort. All of these and many more will storm the stage when Half Naked Productions opened "Deal or New Deal", the alleged first sketch comedy show ever written, on Friday, July 24th at 10:30 PM, at the Greenhouse Theater Center at 2257 N Lincoln Ave., Chicago, IL. The show will run every Friday evening through August 28th.

Hosted by FDR and originally directed by that comic genius of the 1930's, Shamus O'Malley, the sketch comedy show takes the historical events of 1933 as a springboard into comic absurdity. "Deal or New Deal" is the brainchild of Tinley Park residents Tim Skau and David Miles-Sackett , as well as Mo McKibbin, Ryan Schefdore, and Ryan Pedersen. The cast is composed of some of Chicago's finest sketch comedy actors including Tinley Park resident Billy Carrig, as well as Maria Randazzo, Becca Long, Sabrina Pratt, Joey Scavuzzo, Travis Williams, Christopher Genovese, and Brian Gore. Many of the writers and cast members are involved in Half Naked Productions' "High School Production 4", a warped take on high school theatre, currently running at The Second City's Skybox Stage.For tickets to "Deal or New Deal" contact the Greenhouse Theater Center at (773) 404-7336 or at www.greenhousetheater.org.Contact: David Miles-Sackett DL1976@comcast.net (708) 614-9954.

Thanking all our generous monetary donors for the Christmas in July fund

A special "Thank you!" to all the caring people who gave monetary donations to the 2009 Village Pantry "Christmas in July" Campaign. Because of you, the Village Pantry is able to share with those in the Village who are in need.

If you have not as yet made a donation and care to do so, the campaign will remain open until August 15. Since the Village Pantry Coalition is a 501c3 organization, your donation is tax deductible and helps to re-stock the pantry shelves. Checks should be made payable to Village Pantry Coalition and mailed, or brought, to Maher Community Center, 3450 West 97th Street, Evergreen Park.

Your generosity is always appreciated, but especially with these economic times.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 15

August 4, 2009

Chris Thomas – senior and junior – help Together We Cope launch its annual Back-to-School campaign with one of the little yellow school buses used to collect school supplies.

Together We Cope's school buses are rolling

Harris Bank helps collect school supplies for children in need

The little yellow buses are popping up all over the south suburbs, a signal that a new school year is just weeks away and many area youngsters need help getting ready for it.

The buses are collection boxes where residents can drop off donations of back-to-school items needed by area families in financial crisis during this recession. The campaign is an annual effort of Together We Cope, a homeless prevention agency serving families in Bremen , Orland, Palos and Worth Townships.

Harris Bank is on board the bus this year, providing six bank locations as drop-off sites for school supply donations. "We are very fortunate to have Harris Bank as a partner in our effort this year," said Suellen Wolk, community relations coordinator at TWC. She added that TWC has enjoyed the support of local businesses, including banks, in all of its fundraising campaigns.

Last year more than 1,000 area students in need were equipped with backpacks and school supplies as they headed back to the classroom, thanks to TWC's outreach. Wolk said that number will spike this year because of a continued weak economy in the region.

"We want children to be excited about going back to school, but unfortunately some of them feel left behind if they don't have proper clothing and supplies when they return to the classroom," Wolk said.

"We are hoping our south suburban neighbors will help area children get ready to excel in the new school year, and provide supplies like pencil cases, erasers, washable markers, spiral notebooks, backpacks, glue and glue sticks," she said. TWC also provided shoes to children during last year's back-to-school effort, but is unable to do so this year due to lack of funding. Wolk said donations of gift certificates to shoe stores would be greatly appreciated.

All donations, monetary and school supplies, are tax deductible and gratefully shared locally. Further information is available from Wolk at (708) 633-5040.

Together We Cope Back-to-School Drop-off Locations :

Acorn Library
1562 Central Ave.
Oak Forest, IL 60452

A.J. Smith
14757 S Cicero Ave.
Midlothian, IL 60445
8000 W 159th St.
Orland Park, IL 6and
11275 W 143rd St.
Orland Park, IL 60467

First Midwest Bank
17500 South Oak Park
Tinley Park, IL 60477

Harris Bank
12747 W 143rd Street
Homer Glen , IL 60491
15901 Wolf Road
Orland Park, IL 60467
8400 W. 159th Street
Orland Park, IL 60462
8150 W. 143rd St .
Orland Park, IL 60462
18084 S Wolf Road
Orland Park, IL 60467
14831 West 159th Street
Lockport, IL 60491

Hope Christian Reform Church
5825 151 St.
Oak Forest, IL 60452

Allegiance Community Bank
19931 S. Wolf Rd.
Mokena. Il 60448
8001 W. 183rd
Tinley Park, Il. 60487
16700 Oak Park Ave.
Tinley Park, Il. 60477

InBank
16700 S Harlem
Tinley Park, IL 60477
15533 S. Cicero Ave.
Oak Forest, IL 60452 St. Mark Church
11007 S. 76th Ave.
Worth, IL 60482

Chicago Ridge Public Library
10400 Oxford Ave.
Chicago Ridge, Il.

Tinley Park Public Library
7851 Timber Drive
Tinley Park, Il. 60477

Tinley Park Park District
Bettenhausen Center
8125 W. 171st Street
Tinley Park, Il. 60477

The PrivateBank
11850 S. Harlem Avenue
Palos Heights, Il. 60463

Old Tinley Pub
17020 Oak Park Ave.
Tinley Park, Il. 60477

Oak Forest Park District
15601 Central Avenue
Oak Forest, Il. 60452 St. Gerald Church
9310 S. 55th Court
Oak Lawn, Il. 60453

Marcotte's Bar & Grill
15501 Cicero Ave.
Oak Forest Il. 60452

Keke's Nails
1917 W. Fullerton
Chicago, Il. 60614

Royale of London
2910 N. Broadway
Chicago, Il. 60657

Huntingt on Pool
1400 W. Chicago Ave
Chicago, Il. 60540

Archer Bank
3259 W. 95th St.,
Oak Lawn 60453

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Chicago Ridge discuss non profit hall space

The village board at the July 21 Chicago Ridge Board of Trustees meeting directed village attorney George Witous to draft a two year lease between Transitions Community Outreach, a non profit counseling group and the village.

Transitions was officially recognized as a nonprofit organization in June. At the July 7 board meeting, Commissioner Hank Zwirkoski officially retired from the eliminated Chicago Ridge Youth Service Bureau and was also appointed as the new Youth Commissioner for the non-profit organization. The village cut the bureau's funding by $40,000 in the 2009 budget.

Officials desire that the lease be drafted so to protect potential liability and define the differences between the two entities. If the lease were approved at a following meeting, Zwirkoski would be allowed to operate at the village hall for $1 a year.

At a previous meeting, Witous was concerned about the liability issues of providing counseling services in a public building without being a village entity.

Witous was not present at the meeting, but officials submitted a request to have him draft a lease agreement.

Transitions has formed a three member board of directors and is finalizing its application as a tax exempt organization with the Internal Revenue Service, which will allow for more serious fundraising, Zwirkoski said.

Officials were ready to vote on an ordinance to reestablish the youth commission and appoint Zwirkoski as an unpaid village commissioner until the liability issues were once again raised.

Auditions set in Palos

The Palos Village Players will hold auditions for their fall show, THE LION IN WINTER by James Goldman at 8:00 PM on August 18 & 19 at All Saints Lutheran Church, 13350 LaGrange Road. Please park in the rear lot.

The play, which was turned into a movie starring Peter O'Toole and Katherine Hepburn, features an intelligent yet amusing battle of wits between Henry II of England and his outspoken wife Eleanor of Aquitaine. The problem they must solve involves which of their three sons should be the heir to the English throne. One prefers the eldest, one the youngest, and of course the other son plays both ends against the middle.

The cast consists of five men and two women and auditions are open to the general public. Experience is useful but not necessary. The director is Christine Haines of Burbank and the production dates are November 13-21 at the Palos Park Recreation Center .

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

B-MAC EDITION

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 15

August 4, 2009

Enjoy entertainment in Blue Island

National Night Out - Open House
Blue Island Police Dept

13031 S. Greenwood Ave. Tuesday, August 4th 6-10 p.m. FREE food, entertainment, raffles & exhibits. Rumor has it that Michael Jackson will appear, as well as Neil "Denny" Diamond! Spon-sored by MetroSouth Medical Center, the Blue Island Progressive Party and the Fraternal Order of Police.

2.**United Storage Grand Opening "United Circus"** Sunday, August 9th, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.12400 S. Western Ave. Games, Free Food, Raffles, Clowns, a Live Dj, and also a very popular radio station called WGCI 107.5 will be broadcasting live from 12-2pm. There will also be a Big raffle for a 42inch flat screen television. Please come out and enjoy!

3. Blue Island Police Department Golf Outing Saturday, August 8th $80 Per Golfer includes Door Prizes, Golf Cart, 10th Hole Grill, Drink Ticketsand Dinner by HOG WILD. For more Info or Reservations check our web www.bifop180.com (On-Line Registration Available)

4.TGIF Picnic York & Western 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. - this is the last picnic of the season, featuring Disney Radio.

5. Plan ahead for this event; Light up the River Saturday, August 22nd Water Reclamation Center, Chatman & Fulton at dusk. Decorated boats on the river with music and fireworks.

Crestwood Fest 2009

Come join all the fun at the Crestwood Fest 2009, on August 6th thru August 9th, 2009. The Festival will be held at Caesar Park, at 141 St. and Kenton Ave, in Crestwood, IL.

The admission is Free, to the Main Stages and Fair Grounds. There is lots of interesting things to see and do, like the 1st Annual Car Show on Sunday, August 9th, 2009. There will be also a Trophy Ceremony at 4 p.m and 30 Trophies..

Admission is Free, at Caesar Park Also there will be a Carnival, Children's Activities, Petting Zoo, Crafters and Vendors, and Live Music. Plus Sunday, August 9, Fireworks Display, around 9:45 p.m.

Crestwood Book Discussion Group

The Crestwood Public Library, is having a Book Discussion Group for adults meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. In the event the date falls on a holiday, it will move to the next Wednesday. No prior registration is required. Come and make some new friends.

Call or stop in at the Crestwood Public Library, at 4955 West 135 Street, Crestwood, IL or call 708-371-4090 for more information.

Pictured are staff members from the St. Xavier University Clinic, Ingalls Memorial Hospital, Advocate Christ Medical Center and District 218 staff. Along with MetroSouth Medical Center, Palos Community Hospital, The Eye Specialists Center, and many other agencies, they will co-host a Back To School Health Fair on Friday, August 14 from 2 to 7 p.m. Admission is free.

District to sponsor Back to School Health Fair

Numerous medical facilities and government agencies will join District 218 on Friday, August 14 in hosting a Back to School Health Fair at Shepard High School in Palos Heights. The event, which will run from 2 to 7 p.m., will feature school physicals for $40; immunizations for $10; and, comprehensive eye exams for $40. Free items include food, drinks, and entertainment. Shepard's located at 13049 S. Ridgeland Avenue. Admission is free to the fair, which is designed for families of elementary, middle and high school students living in District 218 communities.

"We continually look for new ways to serve our communities, and we think the health fair will benefit students, parents and other residents in many ways," said District 218 Superintendent Dr. John Byrne. "I want to thank the many organizations who have volunteered to offer services and information at the fair. They've collaborated with our staff members, who have given many hours of their time to organize the fair, with a real spirit of community." District 218 staff will attend to answer questions about residency verification, late registration, course selection, activities, and athletics. The St. Xavier University Clinic will provide school physicals for $40. Parents, who must bring their student's medical records and any insurance cards, need to accompany their children in order to get physicals.

The clinic also will offer immunizations for $10 apiece. Again, parents must bring immunization records with them in order to have their children receive immunizations. The Eye Specialists Center, located in Chicago Ridge, will offer comprehensive exams, including tests of color, acuity, binocular vision, depth perception, and convergence. MetroSouth Medical Center will offer free glucose, body fat and blood pressure screens. Palos Community Hospital will provide free bone density and heart risk screens. Other agencies that will participate include the Cook County Sheriff's Police, which will bring its educational Safety Town to Shepard; Ingalls Memorial Hospital; the South Suburban Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse; and, the Palos Heights Fire Department (fire safety); Capital Nutrition; and, the Cook County Department of Public Health. For more information, please visit www.chsd218.org.

Alsip looking green

The village board approved a resolution at the July 13 Alsip Board of Trustees meeting authoriz-ing Mayor Pat Kitching and staff to research the use of plasma technology for the use of creating green energy as well as an annual appropri-ation ordinance to estimate revenues for fiscal year 2009-2010. A public works request to dispose of personal property was also approved.

Other highlights: The village Board approved an agreement with KPMGCF to act as a financial adviser to the village as well as a special real estate advisor in regards to certain services.

A resolution to adopt an identity theft policy pursuant to the Fair and Accurate Credit Trans-action Act was approved as well as a contract with Thomas Industrial Coating, the sole bidder for $198,000 for sandblasting, priming and painting of the village fire hydrants.

Blood donors needed

LifeSource Blood Drive Tuesday, August 25, 9am-3pm MetroSouth Medical Center - Mezzanine Confer-ence Room B & C. Metro-South Medical Center in collaboration with Life-Source will hold a blood drive. Donors must present a picture ID to donate blood.

For futher information contact Metro-South Medical Center at 708-597-2000. Or stop in at MetroSouth Medical Center at 12935 Gregory Street, Blue Island.

Midlothian special event Charity Golf Classic

On August 10, 2009 at Midlothian County Club 5000 West 147th Street, there will be Golf & Dinner for only $160.00 which includes golf, cart, refresh-ments, locker facilities, lunch and dinner.

If you would like to have dinner only, the cost is $60.00. Cocktails will be at 7:00 p.m., dinner at 8:00 p.m.

Check in time 6:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. for golf and shotgun starts promptly at 7:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. No reservations held without payment. Checks made payable to: Charity Golf Outing. For tickets & reservations call: Jerry Gillis (708) 385-8642 or (708)389-0200.

Outing prizes and sponsorships are appre-ciated. Please contact me to make arrangements.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

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WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 36 Number 4

August 18, 2009

Lions Club of Evergreen Park held installation dinner

At the reeent Installation Dinner of the Lions Club of Evergreen Park new member Jose Yanez was inducted into the club. Conducting the induction ceremony was Lion District 1A Governor Ray Jachim. Shown above are Lion Sponsor Ken Plotke, New Member Lion Jose Yanez, Asst. Mgr of Archer Bank and Governor Jachim. For further info on the Lions club you may visit their web site @ http://lionsclubofevergreenparkil.lionwap.org.

Get you car geared up for lst prize in Hickory Hills

Hickory Hills Car Show gets into gear so mark your calender for our 2nd Annual Car Show. This year we are adding a Glow Off Competition Friday, August 28 [rain date Friday, September 4, 2009], from 4:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M, at Kasey Meadow Park, 8047 West 91st. Place, in Hickory Hills, IL.

Featured at this show, will be a 1983 Chevy Pick-Up 1200 Horsepower Blown S-10 Pick Up Truck. A super bouncer will be at the show, so bring the kids. Speetators are free. Register your car in advance for only $15 for the Partieipation Fee before August 26, 2009, or $20 at the door for the Same Day Registration from 3:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.

All years, makes and models are invited. There will be lst place awarded in each class. For further details call 708-598-1233 or look on the website www.hhparkdistrict.org.

School is starting! Don't forget to advertise your School, Academy, Pre School, Day Care, Nursery, Tutors, Learning Centers, and Classes. We have low rates starting at $15 and up, call Lindn and she will give you further details at 312-624-8996.

Hometown Loretto Days & Nights

Friday, August 21 - Teen Night - Ages: 13 to 20 - Hours: 6:30 pm to 10 pm All teens are invited to come to the Big Tent. Join in the fun with the Bean Bag Tournament ($2 to play). Dance Contest, Ping Pong Table and Wii rock band. A DJ will play today's hit music from 7:30 to 10 pm. Pizza, snacks and drinks will be available for purchase with a $2.00 cover charge. All proceeds from Teen Night will benefit the O L L Food Pantry.

Saturday, August 22 - Over 21 Night for Alumni and Adults-Hours: 6:30pm to 11 pm The Big Tent opens at 6:30 pm with a beer garden, food, snacks, pienie bingo and alumni raffles. Alumni and adults are invited to enjoy one of the hottest fest bands in the Chieago area when Maggie Speaks takes the stage from 8 to 11 pm. Must be over 21 to attend. $10 cover charge.

Sunday, August 23 - Family Day-All Ages-Hours: 12 pm to 8 pm Mass will be held under the Big Tent at noon. During the day there will be a beer garden, food, pienie bingo, Old Fashioned Baking Contest, the grand raffle drawing and much more! Kiddy Ride wristband hours will be 1:30 to 4:30 pm. The cost is $5 per child or $15 per family. The Relies will perform at 2 pm and Meet the Beatles will step onstage at 6 pm.

The Big Tent is located on the Our Lady of Loretto parish grounds at 8925 S. Kostner. All Hometown residents,family and friends are welcome to join in the festivities. For further information about any of these events please call 708-424-7471 during office hours.

Abdullah to address American National Can Retirees

Askia Abdullah, an official for Eugene Moore, Cook County Recorder of Deeds, will speak before the Ameriean/National Can Retirees, Wednesday, Aug. 19 following a 9:30 a.m. breakfast in Mabenka Restaurant, 7844 S. Cieero, Burbank.

Edward Surma, coordinator, announced Abdullah will explain the workings of the Recorder of Deeds Offiee along with Home Repair Fraud and Reverse Mortgages.

In his position, Askia is responsible for marketing the office to the general publie and professional market sector. He eirculates press releases coneerning issues and accomplishments of the offiee and represents the office and Recorder of Deeds at public forums.

He received his Jurist Doetor Jurisprudence from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing Miehigan .

Evergreen Park Public Work Department

Branch pickup is the same day as garbage pickup.
Sweeping is done the day after garbage pickup.

Pictured sitting left to right are Katie Danny, Keith and Samantha Standing left to right.Eddie, Coach Lisa.Nicole.Scott, Rachael, Adam, Ian, Jason and Coach Marilyn

Oak Lawn resident Keith Bilski won his 21st Gold Medal

Keith Bilski won his 21st GOLD Medal in the Area 5 Seetional of the Illinois Speeial Olympie Baseball Skills Competition held at The Max indoor training facility in MeCook, IL The Event was held on August 6th Keith is pietured here sitting in his Wheelehair along with his Teamates.

This year everything is done on an every other week schedule.
Branch pickup(garbage day) is the weeks of
August 31
Sept. 14
Sept. 28
Oct. 12
Oct. 26
Nov. 9 and 23 (weather permitting)
Sweeping(day after garbage) is the weeks of
August 10
August 24
Sept. 7
Sept. 21
Oct. 5
Oct. 19
Nov. 2, 16, 30 (weather permitting)

We no longer go up and down the alleys. Please put your small branches and grass clippings in the green container first. Any branches that are too large please put along side your green container on the parkway, along the curb line.

Please do not tie branches in bundles. Neatly stacked piles are preferred. Make sure you put them out the night before the corresponding garbage day.

Thank you for your cooperation.
Sincerely,
Bill Lorenz
Public Works Director

Oak Forest Police Department announces upcoming traffic enforcement campaign

From August 21 to September 7, the Oak Forest Police Department will conduct a citywide traffic enforcement camp-aign focusing on seat belt and other occupant restraint violations.

"Our goal is to encourage people to buckle up so that we can keep them safe on our roads, es-pecially during the Labor Day weekend," said Lieutenant Michael Shaughnessy.

"Parents in particular should make sure their children are properly secured in approved child safety seats."

The campaign is the final in a five-part program to promote traffic safety by conducting saturation patrols in preassigned areas. The Police Department received a $40,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation's Integrated Mini-Grant Enforcement program to pay for officers' salaries and vehicle expenses during the campaigns.

Late Taxes on 24,000 Parcels Bought at Tax Sale , Pappas Says

Delinquent taxes on some 24,000 parcels of property were bought by tax buyers during the Annual Tax Sale and about $103 million in unpaid taxes, penalties and other fees were recovered, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas said today.s

A taxpayer can see if a delinquency was bought by visiting Pappas' website at www.cookcountytreasurer.com and entering the Property Index Number of the property.

The website will tell the owner whether a delinquency was sold, and how to contact the Cook County Clerk's Office about arranging redemption. The County Clerk 's Office is in Room 434 of the Cook County Building , 118 N. Clark Street , Chicago , and at cookctyclerk.com or 312.603.5656.

Owners whose taxes were bought are to receive notices from the tax buyers and the Clerk's Office. If an owner does not redeem, the tax buyer may ask a judge for the deed to the property. Pappas said the owner should avoid the possibility of losing a home or other property by:

· Obtaining an Estimate of Redemption from the Clerk to determine how much is owed.

· Verifying that the PIN on the deed is the same as that on the Estimate of Redemption.

· Paying the Clerk's Office what is owed by certified or cashier's check, money order or cash (never mail cash).

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Governor signs bill to advance safe, humane communities in Illinois

Illinois Gov. I at Quinn signed into law new legislation that helps identify and expose animal abuse. It also affirms the link between animal abuse and child abuse by requiring investigating animal welfare and child welfare agencies to report suspected abuse incidences to each other.

Signed Friday afternoon in a special ceremony at the Cook County Sheriff's Office, the measure amends the Humane Care for Animals Act, as well as the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act, by requiring animal welfare investigators, who have reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child is being neglected, abused, or in any such danger, to make a written or oral report to the State Department of Children and Family Services.

Likewise, investigators employed by the Department of Children and Family Services must immediately report suspected animal abuse or neglect to the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare.

Illinois HB 562 was sponsored by State Senator Don Harmon (D-Oak Park) and State Representative Susana Mendoza (D-Chicago), and jointly spearheaded by the Cook County Sheriff's Department and Best Friends Animal Society, a Utah-based animal welfare organization active in national animal welfare legislation.

"For many years, research has documented the connection between violence to animals and violence to children," said Ledy VanKavage, legislative analyst for Best Friends Animal Society. "We are grateful to Sen. Harmon, Rep. Mendoza, and Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart for their hard work on this bill, and, of course, to Gov. Quinn for signing the bill today."

The measure also provides for immunity from liability for persons, institutions, and agencies participating in good faith in the reporting or investigation of animal abuse or neglect. It also provides for the confidentiality of the identity of persons reporting such animal abuse or neglect.

Cynthia Bathurst, Best Friends Safe Humane director, hailed the law as a triumph for safe humane communities. "The cross reporting requirement will surely help law enforcement uncover suspected abuse and result in safer, more humane communities in Cook County, the city of Chicago, and throughout the state of Illinois," she said.

Gregory Castle, interim chief executive officer for Best Friends Animal Society whose organization works with governmental officials and agencies throughout the country to promote animal kindness and advocate for more humane laws said: "We are pleased that this law has been passed so that animal abuse and child abuse, which are so closely and unfortunately linked in our society, can be identified in the early stages to save lives."

Attending the signing ceremony, along with government officials and representatives of Best Friends Animal Society, were three rescued dogs that work with Safe Humane Chicago: Rou, a three-year old red and white pit bull, serves as a certified therapy dog with the Canine Therapy Corps; Boomer, a four-year-old Labrador retriever; and Scoobie, a 2 ½ year-old Yorkshire terrier, who work with Safe Humane youth leaders and their programs.

About Best Friends Animal Society

Best Friends Animal Society, which celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2009, is a nonprofit, membership organization building no-kill programs and partnerships that will bring about a day when there are No More Homeless Pets®. The society's leading initiatives in animal care and community programs are coordinated from its Kanab, Utah, headquarters, the country's largest no-kill companion animal sanctuary.

Best Friends' work is made possible by the support of a grassroots network of members and community partners across the nation.

Military News

Air Force Airman Matthew S. Burbridge graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

He is the son of Lisa Tully of S Nordica, Burbank, Ill., and Thomas Burbridge of S. Ferdinand, Bridgeview, Ill. Burbridge is a 2008 graduate of Reavis High School, Burbank.

Candlelight Vigil

The Crisis Center for South Suburbia (CCSS) will host the 2009 Candlelight Vigil on Thursday October 8, 2009 at the Village Hall of Tinley Park, located at 16250 Oak Park Avenue, Tinley Park. The vigil will begin at 6:30 pm and features a short program. Join the CCSS in standing together in honor and memory of victims of domestic violence. Remember, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month!

The Crisis Center for South Suburbia's mission is to provide emergency shelter and essential services for victims of domestic violence. For more information, contact Debra at 708-429-7255 ext. 116 or debram@crisisctr.org

Visit www.crisisctr.org for more information on the Crisis Center for South Suburbia, ways to support its mission, and the services it provides.

Gary Eisen of Kolodziej, Eisen and Fey located in Frankfort assists Carol Inyart and Elise Wehmeier during his presentation of how to read a financial statement at a Business Unwrapped seminar. The 2009-10 Business Unwrapped seminar series begins on Friday, September 11 from 11:45 to 1:00 pm at the Orland Park Public Library. The library is located at 14921 S. Ravinia Avenue in Orland Park .

Business Unwrapped Kicks of 2009 -10 Season

Business Unwrapped, a joint seminar series sponsored by the Orland Park Public Library and the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce, kicks off its second year. The learning sessions run from September through May and allow participants to bring their lunch and learn from scheduled business related speakers.

The 2009-10 Business Unwrapped season begins on Friday, September 11 from 11:45 am -1:00 pm and will be held at the Orland Park Public Library. The library is located at 14921 S. Ravinia Avenue in Orland Park . The September 11 session will feature Hilary Burkinshaw of Center Point, Governors State University . Ms. Burkinshaw's topic of discussion will focus on helping you make the most of your business plan. All are welcome to attend. For more information or to RSVP to the event, please contact the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce at 708-349-2972 or email at info@orlandparkchamber.org.

Be sure to check the library website for future topics, dates and times.

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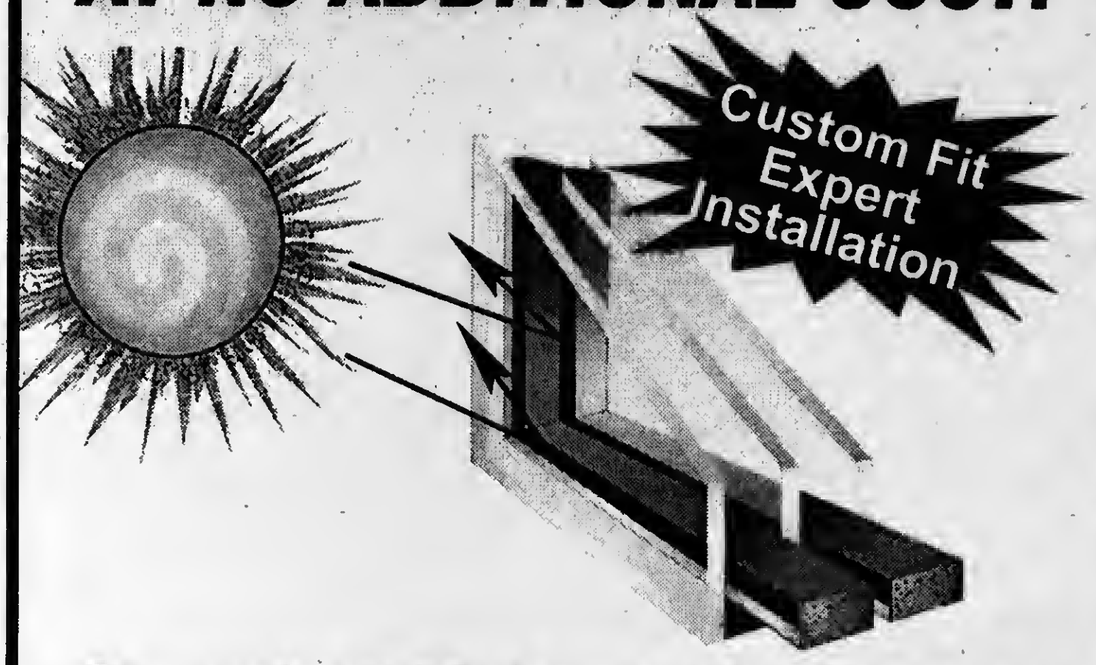

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Massage for the cure

On Tuesday, September 15, 20 Chicagoland Massage Envy® clinics, including the Tinley Park clinic, will host a one-day event - Massage for the Cure, offering specially priced one-hour therapeutic massage sessions for only $35. Ten dollars from each massage will be donated to the Chicago affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure®.

Additional donations will also be accepted and all additional proceeds collected will go directly into the local community. Funds raised go to support breast cancer research, as well as breast cancer education, screening and treatment initiatives.

Last year alone, the Chicagoland Massage Envy clinics executed over 1,000 complimentary massages, with three clinics, South Naperville, Tinley Park and Geneva achieving over 100 massages in one day.

The Geneva clinic, with 159 massages last year marked the second highest amount of massages in the history of Massage for the Cure nationally. The Chicagoland Massage Envy clinics raised over $45,000 last year.

Contact the Chicagoland Massage Envy Clinic in Tinley Park 7246 W. 191st St.; In the Brookside Marketplace at 191st Street and Harlem Avenue . across from Target; (815) 469-4400

FREE Educational Opportunity

WHAT: Join the Lupus Foundation of America, Illinois Chapter (LFAI) for a FREE Educational opportunity, meet others in the community and learn about the connection between lupus and nutrition. This hands on event will include recipes and information on how to read labels. "Nutrition for Lupus Patients" will be presented by Marla Brodsky RD, LD, CNSD Luscious Life Nutrition Inc.

An educational coffee provides an opportunity for individuals in the lupus community to come together in an informal setting to learn about a lupus related issues.

Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that causes inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every organ system in the body. 65,000 Illinois residents struggle with lupus every day; 90 percent of them are women. Unfortunately, most Americans know little or nothing about lupus or its telltale symptoms.

WHEN: Saturday, August 29, 2009

9:30am-11:30am

WHERE: Whole Foods Market South Loop

1101 S. Canal St.

Chicago, IL

COST: FREE!

Space is limited – Registration Required – contact 1-800-2-LUPUS-2 or mary@lupusil.org

WHO: The LFAI is a chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America, the nation's leading nonprofit voluntary health organization. Its mission is to improve the diagnosis and treatment of lupus. support individuals and families affected by the disease, increase awareness of lupus among health professionals and the public and . nd the causes and cure. FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call 1-800-2-LUPUS-2 or email mary@lupusil.org

Offered at Orland Township

Orland Township, in conjunction with The University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy has collaborated to launch a health promotion program entitled "Medication Management and Safety Program." The FREE program will be conducted at the Orland Township Activity Center, 15100 S. 94th Ave., Orland Park, on Tuesday, August 25, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Pharmacists from the University of Illinois will be available for individual reviews to help the older person understand the medicines that they are taking, look for problems while taking these medications, and provide information on the safe use of medications.

As a community-based education program, the presentation will focus on health and medication issues relevant to the older individual. Participants are asked to bring all prescription and over-the-counter medicines they are taking, doctor's name and telephone number, and any questions for the pharmacist. The program will consist of a thirty-minute educational presentation and 1-½ hours for questions and individual consultations.

To register for the FREE program, or for more information, please contact the Orland Township office at (708) 403-4222.

Senior Luncheon offered at Orland Township

Orland Township is hosting their "Harvest Time" senior luncheon to residents' age 55 or older on Tuesday, September 29, 2009. The luncheon will be held in the Orland Township Activity Center, 15100 S. 94th Avenue, Orland Park, IL from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Doors open at 11:00 a.m.

Tickets for Orland Township residents will be available on Wednesday, August 12 at the Orland Township Office, 15100 S. 94th Ave., Orland Park, IL. Ticket price of $7.00 includes a lunch of Polish Sausage, Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes, Pierogi, Cucumber Salad, Dessert plus Coffee or Tea. Our entertainment for the afternoon will be Diane Noe, a beautiful blonde with the "voice full of song". She is also a vocal impressionist with many perfect imitations of singers from Billie Holiday and Patsy Cline to Marlene Dietrich, Marilyn Monroe, Teresa Brewer, and Judy Garland.

Orland Township services the communities of Orland Park, Orland Hills, the western half of Tinley Park and the unincorporated area of Orland Township. The Orland Township office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday evenings until 6:00 p.m. For more information contact, Kathy Kenyeri, Senior Services Coordinator, at (708) 403-4222.

30th Annual Scandinavian Day Festival - Sunday, September 13, 2009

Scandinavian Park Media Contacts: Linda Steffensen (847-884-8079) and Jack Grandin (630-852-0598)

Scandinavian Day Celebrates Three Decades of Fun, Family & Festivities at Vasa Park, South Elgin, IL

The 30th Annual Scandinavian Day Festival at Vasa Park, Route 31, South Elgin, Illinois is just around the corner - on Sunday, September 13, 2009. Enjoy a late summer day with traditional food, crafts, games, gifts & entertainment celebrating the five Nordic heritage and cultures of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

Bring your family and friends to beautiful 25-acre Vasa Park, located along the Fox River, on Sunday, September 13, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event, held rain or shine, is presented by the Scandinavian Day Festival Committee at historic Vasa Park, Route 31, South Elgin, Illinois (7 Miles South of I-90 Northwest Tollway & 5 Miles North of IL Rt. 64 North Ave.)

Come enjoy delicious Scandinavian foods, treats and baked goods. Featured Scandinavian and American entertainment includes The Nordic Folk Dancers, Sun City Concert Band, Swedish Glee Club, Leikarringen Heimhug Folk Dancers and more. Back by popular demand are the 10 a.m. church service and free pony rides for the children. New in 2009: Take a stroll through our new Heritage Garden & Walk of Honor and and visit a special exhibit celebrating "30 Years of Scandinavian Day Memories".

Donation: Adults: $10 per person (includes FREE Parking) – Children 12 & Under FREE. For FREE entry, please wear full traditional Scandinavian dress or costume & spend a few minutes in the park's VIP/Culture Tent sharing the significance & history. Sorry...no pets permitted on the grounds!

For information, please call the Scandinavian Park Hotline 847-695-6720 or http:www.vasaparkil.com http:www.scandinaviandayil.com/

Travel Baseball tryouts with Oak Lawn Chargers

The Oak Lawn Chargers will be hosting 2010 travel baseball tryouts for 10U players (age of player on May 1, 2010) on August 22nd from 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Tryout location will be at Columbus Manor Park on 100th & Moody.

You can visit the website www.Oaklawnchargers.com. Tryouts are for potential new players only. If you cannot make the tryout contact Bill Olsen (708) 417-6074 to arrange individual workout. Importannt questions before tryout please call.

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VASA PARK
Scandinavian Park, Inc. NFP Invites You to the 30th Annual Scandinavian Day
Come Celebrate the Culture, Heritage & Traditians of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Narway and Sweden at beautiful 25-acre Vasa Park, Route 31 in Sauth Elgin, Illinois located alang the Fax River.
Sunday, September 13: The 30th Annual Scandinavian Day Festival, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Adults $10.00, Children 12 & Under FREE * FREE PARKING * Rain or Shine * Look for the Scandinavian flags
Saturday, October 17: 9th Annual Fish Boil/Harvest Festival
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Website: www.vasaparkil.com

Moraine Valley program assists non-English speakers with improving skills

The Intensive English Language Program (IELP) at Moraine Valley Community College assists students whose native language is not English in improving their English skills to enroll in classes at the college.

Evening classes will be offered on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills, during the fall 2009 semester.

Students in the program can take beginning, intermediate, and advanced level classes in speech, grammar, writing, and reading. Those in the more advanced levels of IELP may take additional courses such as keyboarding and math, although a separate assessment is required for math.

"These classes are designed for people who are serious about committing their time and effort to developing their academic language skills," said Arlene de la Paz Kane, coordinator of the Access and Success in Higher Education (ASHE) Program.

"Personal schedules must allow enough time for homework, study, and tutoring assignments. Students with full-time jobs should seriously consider enrolling part-time."

Potential students must possess basic academic English language and processing skills that allow for sufficient classroom communication and an understanding of materials. All students must take the Compass/ESL placement test.

To receive a permission ticket for this test, visit the Multicultural Student Affairs/ASHE Program in Building S Room 203, or call (708) 974-5475.

De La Salle Institute to begin 120th School Year

On August 20, 2009, De La Salle Institute will begin its 120th school year at 8 am. De La Salle invites members of the local media to visit our school that day and speak with some of our students, faculty and staff as the historic South Loop institution begins a school year that will be filled with a variety of celebrations marking De La Salle's existence since 1889.

De La Salle is one of two co-institutional high schools in the country. Our Institute Campus for Young Men is located at 3434 S. Michigan Ave. in Chicago and our Lourdes Hall Campus for Young Women is located at 1040 W. 32nd Pl. in Chicago.

If you are interested in visiting De La Salle that day, please contact De La Salle's Communications Coordinator, Mike Walsh, at 312-842-7355 ext. 145 or walshm@dls.org

Mt. Assisi Academy names Alum as new School President

A distinguished alumna has been named as the new President of Mt. Assisi Academy for the 2009-2010 school year, according to the school's Board of Directors and School Sisters of St. Francis of Christ the King.

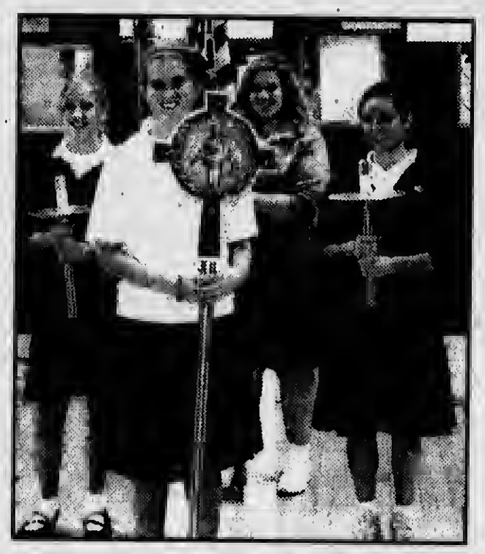
K.Tina Donahue, a current member of the Academy's Board of Directors, will assume the role of President on Aug. 1. Sr. Ann Barbara Plavac, who has served as the school's President for nearly four years, will be transitioning to the newly created position of Director of Franciscan Service. The moves are part of the Academy's ongoing reorganization and enhancement of several areas, including the President's Office, the educational programs and technology services.

"Tina brings a wealth of educational and business knowledge to our Academy and is well suited to guide us as we continue working to improve our entire educational experience and position the Academy for the future," said Daniel Broadhurst, Chairman of the Mt. Assisi Board of Directors.

While Ms. Donahue is the first lay person to serve in the role of President at the school, her appointment is part of a trend in Catholic education. We welcome her and we will give her the representation and respect she well deserves.

Mount Assisi Academy

Where Young Women **Believe * Achieve * Succeed**



2009 Shadow Day
Monday September 21, 2009
Friday October 2, 2009
Friday October 16, 2009
Monday November 23, 2009

2009 Open House Dates
Sunday November 1, 2009 2 p.m. to 4 p.m
Tuesday December 8, 2009 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m

Please join us for the Immaculate Conception Liturgy at 8 a.m.

Entrance Exam
Saturday January 9, 2010 at 8 a.m
$25 test fee, calculators are permitted.

13860 Main Street • Lemont, IL 60439 • (630) 257-7844
www.mtassisiacademy.org

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Open House I
Sunday, November 1 | 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Honors Open House
Wednesday, November 18 | 6:30 p.m.

Open House II
Sunday, December 6 | 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Entrance Exam
Saturday, January 9, 2010 | 8:00 a.m.

Schedule a Shadow Day Visit Today!
Contact Craig Ferguson
Director of Admissions
773-925-RITA or cferguson@stritahs.com

First Home Football Game
vs. Br. Rice
Friday, September 11 | 7:30 p.m.

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Liberal Arts High School

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Thursday, September 15

Open House 2009
Sunday, November 8
noon to 2:30pm
&
Tuesday, December 1
6 to 8:30pm

Girls' Night Out
A night of games and activities for 7th & 8th grade girls
Friday, December 11
6 to 9pm

Schedule your shadow day visit today!
Call 773.881.6566 or visit mothermcauley.org to register

3737 West 99th Street, Chicago
773.881.6500 | mothermcauley.org

Disco Dinner Dance sponsored by Orland Township

Orland Township is sponsoring a Disco Dinner Dance for seniors age 55 and over. The dinner dance will be held on Thursday, September 24, 2009 at the Orland Chateau, 14500 So. LaGrange Rd. , Orland Park, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Tickets are necessary and may be purchased at the Orland Township office, 15100 So. 94th Avenue , Orland Park . Resident tickets are available for $16.00. Non-residents tickets will go on sale Tuesday, August 25 for $21.00.

Ticket price includes a family style meal and entertainment by Don Reitsma and the Variety Pak. Door prizes and a 50/50 raffle will be offered. Orland Township serves the communities of Orland Park, Orland Hills, Unincorporated Orland Township , and the western half of Tinley Park .

The Orland Township office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday evenings until 6:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Kathy Kenyeri, Senior Services Coordinator, at (708) 403-4222.

Evergreen Park Seniors knows how to have fun

Sept. 2 -

Evergreen's (Meet monthly - 1st Wednesday each month @ Noon) 9547 S. Homan Ave (Community Event Center) Bring your own lunch & Bingo

Sept. 17 -

Senior Council Luncheon & Program (Meet 3rd Thursday each month 11:30 am) 9547 S. Homan Ave. (Community Event Center) Enjoy a home cooked meal by Louise Pitluck) Purchase $6.00 meal ticket by Friday 9/11/09 Beef Stroganoff and all that goes with.. Entertainment - Double Nickel + Chorus Theme -

Where have you been this summer? 2 Future Day Trips...

Sept. 28 - Chicago History Museum & High Tea at the Drake Hotel Purchase ticket: $66 Deadline: Sept. 4 Holiday Event -

Fireside Theatre Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin

Date: Friday, December 11, 2009

Treat yourself or a friend with a memorable Christmas gift... Holiday event - Fireside Theatre Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin Enjoy a gourmet luncheon - Beef tenderloin, fresh baked breads, snowflake salad, potato cheese croquette, garden vegetables, holiday pear...

The property is beautifully decorated, offers many shops & boutiques ... next, a visit to the theatre for a classy production "Here's Love" based on the beloved Christmas movie "Miracle on 34th Street:

Tickets: $90 Depart: 8am Return 6pm

Deadline: 11/6/09

Purchase tickets asap - Popular trip sells out quickly.

Smith Village free Memory Support group meeting open to public on August 25th

An opportunity for families to network and exchange insights

Smith Village, the continuing care retirement community at 2320 W. 113th Place, is inviting area residents to a special 60-minute program on Memory Support at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 25.

It will focus on "Caregiver Relief," how caregivers can take care of themselves. Diane Morgan, Smith Village's resident service director for memory support and assisted living, will serve as facilitator for a discussion and give participants time to share personal experiences.

The event—designed for the adult children of seniors with memory loss challenges—is free.

Please call 773-474-7300 to reserve a seat. Light refreshments will be served.

Reservations only for lunch with your legislators

The Bridgeview Chamber of Commerce & Industry will be hosting a special luncheon on

Thursday, August 20th, 2009 at Mama Luigi's Restaurant, 7500 S. Harlem Avenue, Bridgeview.

"Lunch with Your Legislators" will be held at 11:30am and is open to all businesses in the Bridgeview area, including but not limited to Bedford Park, Burbank, Chicago Ridge, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn and Worth.

Opening remarks will be made by Mayor Steven Landek of Bridgeview and Paul LaSchiazza of AT&T. Our confirmed legislative panel includes; Senator Louis Viverito, 11th District, Senator Jacqueline Collins – 16th District, Represen-tative Mary E. Flowers – 31st House District, Senator Edward Maloney – 18th District and Congressman Dan Lipinski – 3rd District.

During this event, all business guests in attendance will have an opportunity to meet and mingle with their . The agenda includes an update from each legislator and an open dialog Q & A segment.

Call Roseann, there may be some seats available, since reservations are needed. Call the Bridgeview Chamber of Commerce at 708-598-1700.

Monthly Tinley Park Genealogy meeting

"Digging Up the Dirt: The Histories and Mysteries of the Will County. "Digging Up the Dirt" is presented by author and historian, Gina Wysocki. It describes her recent book by the same name and recounts an especially touching and personal story of one tombstone found by accident of a young Will County resident, Little Jenette. With some luck and lots of good genealogy research, she is able to reunited Little Jenette with her long lost ancester.

Gina Wysocki will be the speaker at the Tinley Park Library at 7:00 p.m. The monthly Genealogy meeting is at 7:00 p.m. Thurs. Sept. 10,.

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$19.95 Choice of 12oz Prime Rib or NY Strip Steak

Fri. Kids Eat Free Nite
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Sat. Rib Dinner Nite
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Friday
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Saturday
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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Left Mark Donahue President of FOP and Officer Jim Bailey

New Field Representative for Fraternal Order of Police

Mark Donahue, President of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7, congratulates Chicago Police Officer Jim Bailey on recently becoming Field Representative for the F.O.P.

Officer Bailey has been on the Chicago Police force for 15 years. He worked in the 9th District before coming up to F.O.P. as a Field Representative and is also a Trustee on the F.O.P. Board of Directors. Jim's father, James P. Bailey is a retired Chicago Police Officer.

Caregiver Program Available

Caring for a family member with a chronic illness such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease or stroke is stressful and takes an enormous physical and emotional toll on caregivers. PLOWS Council on Aging is offering a six part training program entitled Powerful Tools for Caregivers. The focus of the Powerful Tools program is to enable caregivers to better care for themselves by improving their own self-confidence and problem solving skills. This program, by Mather Life Ways , has been tested and evaluated through a grant from the U.S. Administration on Aging.

Classes are scheduled at the Hickory Hills Community Center, 7800 W 89th St , Hickory Hills beginning September 14, 2009 and running six weeks through October 19, 2009. All classes will be from 1PM-3:30PM. A nominal fee of $25 is charged for these classes to cover the cost of the Caregiver Helpbook.* To register, simply contact PLOWS Council on Aging, (708)361-0219.

*Financial assistance may be available to those who qualify.

PLOWS Council on Aging is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting older people who reside in Palos, Lemont, Orland, and Worth Townships . Our mission is to improve the quality of life of persons 60 years of age and older, by providing the highest level of service to those who are physically, psychologically, and/or financially in need and treating those persons and families with dignity, compassion, and respect.

Friday Night Movies on the Village Green

The Village of Oak Lawn and the Oak Lawn Park District are sponsoring a summer movie night on Friday, August 28, 2009. Pirates of the Caribbean , rated PG-13, was released in 2003 and stars Johnny Depp, Keira Knightley, and Orlando Bloom. Friday Night Movies begin at dusk!

Movies are **FREE** and no reservations are required. Bring your own refreshments and don't forget your blankets or lawn chairs. Food will be available from Oak Lawn Cub Scouts, Christensen's Wagon, and Millie's Ice Cream.

The Village Green is located north of the Oak Lawn Library and directly east of the Municipal Center , 9446 Raymond Avenue . For more information about the Friday Night Movie Series, please contact Chad Weiler at (708) 499-7837 or email cweiler@oaklawn-il.gov or visit our website at www.oaklawn-il.gov.

Bridgeview Public Library holds 2nd booksale

The Bridgeview Public Library will be holding their 2nd bookslae on Thursday August 27th, Friday August 28th & Saturday August 29th.

With over 10,000 items to choose from we have something for everyone.

The sale will be during the library's regular hours. There will be no early birds accepted.

Any questions please call (708) 458-2880 and ask for Lori

ADT Safety Tips: Back-to-School Safety

Safety Tips to Help Parents Keep Kids Safe Before, During and After School

Before school:

·If your child walks or rides a bicycle to school, help him or her choose the safest possible route with the fewest street crossings and walk or ride with him or her if possible. According to a child safety organization, pedestrian injury is the second leading cause of accidental injury-related death among children ages 5 to 14. Talking with children about biking and walking safety can help to reduce their risk of injury.

·Be sure there is at least one parent with children waiting at a school bus stop. This is a time when potentially risky activity, such as bullying and fighting, can take place.

During school:

· Educate yourself about school safety and security. Talk to your children about their safety concerns and visit their campus to talk with an administrator about the school's security plan.

After school:

· If kids are alone in the afternoons, teach them to go straight home, keep doors locked and not answer the door for anyone.

· Do not keep firearms easily accessible in your home and talk to kids about the potential dangers of guns and what to do if they find one. If you do have a gun in the house, it is vital to keep it unloaded and in a locked area with the ammunition stored separately. Parents should check their weapons periodically.

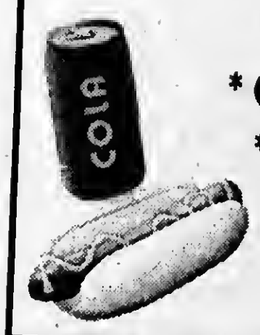
Fiel said, "Keeping kids safe is one of the most important things parents, teachers, administrators and the surrounding community can help to accomplish this year. We hope that these tips will remind parents to make school safety a priority so they are able to send their students off to school with confidence."

15TH ANNUAL ART SILHAN MEMORIAL MUSICHORALE GOLF OUTING

Enjoy a relaxing day...come out and play!
Sunday, September 27, 2009
at Gleneagles Country Club
13070 McCarthy Road Lemont, IL 60439
Tee times are 11:30am - 12:30pm

This is a fundraiser for the Annual Musichorale Scholarship Contest held in February for students in grades 1 - 12 to continue their musical studies.
Golf sponsorships are needed:
Eagle: $200 Birdie: $150 - $199 Par: $100 - $149
Prize donations are very much appreciated. All contributions to Musichorale are tax deductible. For more information please call: Jeff Silhan at 1-773-239-6279 or mail donations c/o Silhan, 10760 S. Hoyne, Chicago, IL 60643
Please make checks payable to Musichorale.

BRIDGEVIEW CHURCH OF GOD
2ND ANNUAL FAMILY FEST & CRAFT SHOW
Saturday, August 22, 2009 ~ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
7801 W. 71st Street, Bridgeview



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Affording Retirement in Crisis

Consider several misconceptions to improve your financial security.

Keys to success....So you can maintain your lifestyle in retirement.

Overland Park, KS August, 14 2009—Is your retirement going to be put on hold? Here are a few tips for a comfortable retirement. We will examine some misconceptions so you can understand and overcome these hurdles to an affordable retirement. A secure retirement is certainly concerning in these economic times. A trusted financial professional can help you through your concerns and misconceptions that could cause irreversible financial mistakes. If financial security is of concern, then read on.

Misconception #1: Taxes Won't Have a Major Effect on My Retirement

If you take one dollar and double it 20 times the total is more than one million dollars ($1×2 = $2; $2×2 = $4; $4×2 = $8; and so on.) But here's the really interesting part: If you tax the gain at just 31% each time you double that dollar, you won't end up with $1 million. In fact, you won't end up with even $600,000. Surely it's at least $100,000, right? Nope, when the return is eroded by taxes, you end up with just over $36,000! The power of compounding is that powerful, and the cost of taxes is that harmful to wealth creation.

Look at the balance in your IRA, 401(k), 403(b), or 412(i). Now deduct 35% from that. That number doesn't feel as good. But reality is that not all of that money in the account is yours; Uncle Sam has a mortgage on your retirement account—he will get his cut.

It's like that with your money. Small differences in the way you structure your financial life can have a big impact on the results you get and on the amount of taxes you pay—or don't have to pay!

We must remember: it's not what you make before taxes, it's what you keep that counts. That's why we each need to make sure we're planning from a net, after-tax perspective.

Misconception #2: I can be comfortable in retirement on less than I make now.

You have three choices for retirement income: more than you need, the right amount, not enough. Sadly, of those who do plan, most try to figure out what they will need and come up with some figure less than they need now. Sorry, wrong answer.

This is a unique time in history. You are facing challenges today that Americans have not faced for many generations, if ever. The good news is people are living longer, living healthier and are more active later in life than they've ever been. The bad news is that because people are living longer there is a mounting financial crisis. Many people—thousands who think they're okay today—may have incomes that expire before they do.

There is a confluence of forces at work: a population that's living longer than any generation in history, the hardly perceptible erosion of purchasing power by inflation, low interest rates, increased stock market volatility, a Social Security system that cannot be sustained in its current status and fewer employer-sponsored pension and healthcare benefits in retirement.

All this is transpiring just as the largest generation in the history of this country is beginning to retire: the baby boomers. Although the effects aren't visible today, these forces are welling up like a tidal wave in the middle of the ocean. The effects on the shore aren't seen until the forces converge there... and then it's too late.

According to a survey conducted by the Employee Benefit Research Institute (April 2006), people today have a lot of misconceptions on where their retirement income will come from and how much they need. Among the key findings were:.

More than half of workers saving for retirement report total savings and investments (including the equity in their home) of less than $50,000.

Many workers are counting on employer provided benefits that are rapidly disappearing if not already gone.

If you think you can get by on less, guess again.

Misconception #3: Life Expectancy Averages Matter

When it comes to retirement income planning, life expectancy figures can be severely misleading. Many people will outlive their own life expectancies. This means that most people ought to think long and hard about longevity risk—the very real possibility of living 20, 30, or 40 years (or more) past retirement age.

The odds of at least one member of a 65-year-old couple reaching 92 are 50%, and there is at least a 25% chance of one of them reaching 97. (Source: Society of Actuaries, Annuity 2000 Mortality Table.)

There has never been a generation in history that has been faced with a challenge of the magnitude and scope that faces you today. Your retirement may last as long as your working life. What happens if you do live to be 95, 100, or beyond? If you retire at 60, you may need income for another 35, 40, or possibly even 50 years. Will your income last as long as you do?

Misconception #4: Market Averages Matter

One way to misunderstand raw information is to confuse abstractions with reality. Market averages are such an abstraction. Averages do not actually exist. Market results exist—and nothing compels actual market results to obey averages.

Let's look at an example. Looking back from 1926 through the end of 2006, the S&P 500 stock index averaged about 10.4 percent annually according to Ibbottson Associates. But out of all those 81 years, how many times did it actually provide a calendar year return between 10 percent and 11 percent? Did you guess 20? 30? 10? Try one. Just one. Is that too narrow of a band? Then let's find out how many times the market's return was between 8 percent and 12 percent. Surely 30 or 40 of those 81 years, right? Actually, the market's return was in the 8 to 12 percent range just four times. In fact, the market's loss was greater than 20 percent more times than it returned a gain of 8 to 12 percent. But that's only part of the story. The market's gain has been 20 percent or greater 31 times out of those 81 years.

The stock market's returns don't go in a straight line—they never have. Expecting a return of 10 to 11 percent each year would have left you feeling a little off course in 80 of those 81 years. Making sure your plan is up to task requires planning for the inevitable times investments will under-perform their historical averages.

Misconception #5: I Don't Need to Worry about Long-Term Care

Do you have long-term care insurance? Most people don't. And why is that? There are basically two answers to that question. Number one: "It" will never happen to them. Number two: It's too expensive. Let's talk straight, look at the facts and then decide what makes sense.

When you think about the threats to your retirement savings, most people usually think about market losses. Oftentimes, it is not market related events but catastrophic life events, like illness, that wreak havoc on retirement savings. If you had a spouse or family member that needed healthcare, how much of your retirement would you be willing to spend to help that person? All of it? I would, too.

When it comes to dealing with healthcare risk late in your life, you have two choices. Those are your only two options. You can hold the risk yourself or you can spread the risk around. If you don't have long-term care insurance, you have to ask yourself an important question: Can you afford to foot the bill out of your retirement nest egg? Would there be any financial strain if your expenses went up $60,000 or $90,000 or even $120,000 per year over what you anticipate? If you haven't taken care of the matter, no one else will pick up the bill for most long-term care.

Think it won't happen to you? Well, hopefully not. But the fact is that 43 percent of Americans age 65 or older will spend some time in a nursing home. Seven in 10 couples (65 and older) can expect one spouse to need long-term care. And yet, in a recent survey by the American Healthcare Association, 76 percent of the people surveyed said they do not expect to need long-term care in the future. There is a tremendous disconnect between the expectations and the facts.

What about the argument that long-term care is too expensive? Well, all insurance is too expensive if we never use it—but a bargain if we do. In any case, you can reduce the cost of long-term care insurance by tailoring it to your unique needs. This is done by adjusting one of the four main components of a traditional long-term care policy:

· Elimination Period—How long from the time you start needing it until it starts paying?

· Coverage Period—The length of time the coverage will pay benefits.

· Benefit Amount—How much it will pay per day or per month?

· Riders—These can range from inflation riders (how much the amount of coverage will go up each year to cover increases in cost of living), to indemnity (to cover additional costs of medication), to a return of premium rider (which may return what you paid to your heirs in the event you don't use the benefit in your lifetime), as well as many others.

By adjusting the amount of coverage in any one or more of these four, you will probably be able to create a long-term plan that fits both your risk tolerance and your budget.

If you would like help in planning for your retirement or just have some questions please contact Duane Roth at The Roth Companies at 618-632-7684 or check out www.therothcompanies.com Duane@TheRothCompanies.com.

Registered Representambridge Investment Research, Inc., a Broker/Dealer, Member FINRA/SIPC, Investment Advisor Representative, RDA Financial Network, a Registered Investment Advisor, Cambridge and The Roth Companies, Inc. are not affiliated.

Editor's Note:

Long Term Health Care Ins. is beneficial only if the company can give a return if unused. Your beneficiaries would receive the money. It's like an inheritance.

Avila to address Golden Eagle Club

Commissioner Frank Avila, with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, will speak before the Golden Eagle Club, Wednesday, August 26 at 10 am at Prospect Federal Savings Bank, 11139 S. Harlem Avenue , Worth.

Stasy Kores, coordinator, announced the commissioner will explain theworkings of the MWRD including the Deep Tunnel Projcct.

Commissioner Avila has over 40 years of experience as an engineer and land surveyor, lending his talent to over 300 engineering projects. He received his bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana and a master of science from the University of Arizona .

Court Theatre prepares for its 55th season

Court announces new offices and improved theatre facilities; welcomes new staff and Board members; and Joyce Foundation extends Ron OJ Parson's residency for fourth consecutive year;

COURT FINISHES THE 2008-9 SEASON WITH A BUDGET SURPLUS

Despite a challenging economic climate, Court was able to finish the season with a budget surplus. The surplus demonstrates the commitment of Court's board and staff to produce high quality theatre in a financially responsible manner.

JOYCE FOUNDATION EXTENDS RON OJ PARSON'S ARTISTIC RESIDENCY AT COURT:

The Joyce Foundation will fund Ron OJ Parson's Artistic Residency at Court Theatre during the 2009-10 season for an unprecedented fourth year in a row. At Court, Parson has directed critically-acclaimed productions of Fences, Flying West, Wait Until Dark and The Piano Lesson. Parson will open Court's 2009-10 season with August Wilson's Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, and close out the season with Sizwe Banzi is Dead, co-authored by Athol Fugard, John Kani, and Winston Ntshona.

COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCES NEW LEADERSHIP:

Heidi Thompson Saunders has been hired as Court Theatre's new General Manager. Saunders joins Court Theatre after four years as the Executive Director of Barrel of Monkeys. Saunders received her MBA from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business in 2005 with concentrations in general management and marketing. She has served on committees for the Chicago Family Theater Association, the Chicago Comedy Association and the League of Chicago Theaters.

Cheryl Aponte has been hired as Court Theatre's new Director of Development. Aponte comes to Court from The Nature Conservancy where she served as Director of Philanthropy and Director of Major Gifts for nearly six years. Aponte was at the University of Chicago for four years prior to that in the Regional Major Gifts program. Aponte has worked at Chicago Shakespeare Theater and DePaul University , and holds an MA in theater from Northern Illinois University .

Ann Marie Lipinski was recently appointed to the Court Theatre Board of Trustees. Pulitzer Prize winning reporter and former Editor of the Chicago Tribune, Lipinski is also the Vice President for Civic Engagement at the University of Chicago , leading the effort to create a new model for an urban research institution acting in partnership with its

Virginia Gerst was appointed as Chairman of the Board of Trustees in June 2009 by the Court Theatre Board of Trustees and Artistic Director Charles Newell. A graduate of Vassar College , where she studied theater, Virginia is also on the board of the Green City Market and a member of the Gene Siskel Film Center advisory committee. Gerst has been a Court Theatre Trustee since 1997.

Drew Dir is commencing his first season as Resident Dramaturg for Court Theatre, where he will oversee dramaturgy for the 2009-10 season. Dir has worked as a playwright, dramaturg, and director in Chicago and London . Dir's short play *The Lurker Radio Hour* was voted Best Production at Collaboraction's Sketchbook 8 at the Steppenwolf Garage in 2009.

The Marvelous Wonderettes

The production is directed by: Roger Bean Choreographed by Janet Miller and Music Director: Brian Baker.

The cast of The Marvelous Wonderettes feature Cat Davis, Dina DiCostanzo, Laura Taylor and Tempe Thoma.

You will hear the songs of the 50's and 60's in the musical production of The Marvelous Wonderettes. It starts September 27-October 25, 2009, Tuesdays: 7:30pm (except Sept. 22, Oct. 6 and Oct. 13),Wednesdays: 1:00pm, 7:30pm Thurs., 7:30pm Fridays: 8:00pm Saturdays: 2:30pm and 8:00pm Sundays: 2:30pm and 7:00pm (except Sept. 27, Oct. 4 and 25).

Northlight Theatre is located at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd , Skokie .

Ticket prices are $39-54. and can be purchased at the box office located at 9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie or call 847.673.6300; or visit northlight.org

The Marvelous Wonderettes has been playing to sold-out houses at off-Broadway's Westside Theatre since September 14, 2008. Northlight's season includes three productions with music as a focus: *The Marvelous Wonderettes; Souvenir* about the "Tone-deaf Diva" Florence Foster Jenkins; and *Low Down Dirty Blues*, by the creators of Fire on the Mountain and It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues, featuring Jeff Award winner "Mississippi" Charles Bevel. The season also includes Awake and Sing!, directed by Amy Morton; and A Life directed by BJ Jones, featuring John Mahoney.

The Marvelous Wonderettes received the 2007 Los Angeles Ovation Award for Best Musical. Director Roger Bean received a Los Angeles Ovation Award nominations for Best Director of a Musical for

The Marvelous Wonderettes. The New York production received a 2009 Drama League Award nomination for Distinguished Production of a Musical and a Broadway.com Audience Award nomination for Favorite New Off-Broadway Musical.

Senior Trip to Fireside Dinner Theater to see "The Sound of Music"

Join Orland Township as we experience the world's most beloved musical!

Yes, Rodgers and Hammer-stein's immortal hit The Sound of Music is live and onstage at the Fireside Theater in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, featuring an outstanding cast of some of the country's most talented Broadway and Regional actors. Every song is a classic from the joyful "My Favorite Things" to the stirring "Climb Every Mountain."

Included is an absolutely delicious lunch featuring the Fireside's Signature Salad, Boneless Pork Chop with Stuffing, Sweet Potato Soufflé, Pink Cinnamon Apple Sauce, and Sweet Corn with Diced Red Bell Pepper. Your fantastic entrée will be followed by an even more delicious dessert of Viennese Sacha Torte accompanied by Coffee or Tea.

You will also have time to browse their quaint shops and their fabulous bakery located inside the Fireside Dinner Theater.

Tickets are necessary and may be purchased at the Orland Township office, 15100 So. 94th Avenue, Orland Park.

Resident tickets are available for $90.00. Non-residents tickets will be available on Tuesday, August 25 for $95.00.

Buses will leave from the Bank Financial parking lot on the northwest corner of 151st and 94th Avenue at 7:30 a.m. and return approximately at 6:00 p.m.

Orland Township serves the communities of Orland Park, Orland Hills, the western half of Tinley Park, and the unincorporated area of Orland Township.

Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday evenings until 6:00 p.m.

For more information please contact Kathy Kenyeri, Senior Services Coordinator, at (708) 403-4222.

CST Executive Director Criss Henderson honored by French Government

The French government has bestowed the prestigious award of Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) on Chicago Shakespeare Theater Executive Director Criss Henderson. The award is in recognition of Henderson's instrumental role in presenting premier French performing arts groups in Chicago. Collaborations with French theater artists have been a major cornerstone of CST's World's Stage Series including works with France's national theatre, La Comédie-Francaise, Peter Brook's Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord, James Thierré's Compagnie du Hanneton, Théâtre National de Boulogne-Billancourt, Transe Express and Ilotopie who will kick off the 2009/10 World's Stage Series with their aquatic spectacle Water Fools (Fous de Bassin).

The French government confers several distinctions, among which the Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres is conferred on persons who have distinguished themselves by their creativity in the field of art, culture and literature or for their contribution to the influence of the arts in France and throughout the world.

Commenting on the Award, Henderson said, "We have been privileged to bring to Chicago astounding artists representing the range of French culture—from the superb artistry of France's national theater company, La Comédie-Francaise, to the brilliant aerial performances of Compagnie Transe Express last summer. Anticipating Ilotopie's aquatic spectacle off Navy Pier, Chicagoans and the city's visitors can expect to witness some of the world's most incredible and inspiring performers using our City's beautiful Lake Michigan waterfront as a unique and limitless performance space."

The award will be conferred by Laurent Maillaud, Cultural Attaché at the French Consulate in Chicago on behalf of the French Minister of Culture and Communication on Friday, August 21, 2009 as a prelude to Ilotopie's aquatic spectacle, Water Fools (Fous de Bassin). For more information on Water Fools (Fous de Bassin) and other Chicago Shakespeare Theater productions, visit www.chicagoshakes.com or call the Theater's Box Office at 312.595.5600.

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Obituary

Martin W. Metzger, at the age of 68, lived in Oak Lawn, IL. Proudly served in the US Marines.

Was dearest father to Ted, Michelle, Denise, Monica, Candice, Martin, Matthew and Lance; loving stepfather of Brenda, Catherine, Daniel, Kelly, Susan, Mary and the late David Brady; cherished grandpa of 20 and 4 great-grandchildren; dear brother of Donald, Thomas, Michael, Brad, John, Mary Ellen, Barbara, Patti Sue, Lorelei and Charlene; loving son of the late Donald L. Metzger and Caroline C. Stengel. Also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral was at Kosary Funeral Home in Evergreen Park, IL., and then to Chapel for a Mass at St. John Fisher Church, and then to Interment Holy Sepulchre. For more information on Martin Metzger please call 708-499-3223.

Moraine Valley announces next Veterans' Information Session

Moraine Valley Community College's next free Veterans' Information Session will focus on the transition from the military to college, state and federal benefits, and local veteran support. It will be on Friday, August 14, from 9 a.m. to noon, in Moraine Room 1, in the new Moraine Business and Conference Center (Building M), on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. This session is open to anyone and is co-sponsored by the Illinois Department of Employment Security.

Guest speakers will discuss the new Post 9/11 GI Bill, post-traumatic stress disorder signs and symptoms, outreach programs, asset and debt management, and a new Moraine Valley class for military transition to college. Admissions and financial aid information also will be available.

Once they are enrolled at Moraine Valley, veterans can find additional support from the Combat to College student veteran association. The club's mission is to inform veterans about current educational benefits, provide a strong network to achieve academic and career goals, and develop lifelong friendships.

To reserve a spot at the next Veterans' Information Session, call Deb Wills, Admissions recruiter, at (708) 974-5759 or e-mail her at willsd6@morainevalley.edu. More information also is available at morainevalley.edu/admissions/veterans.htm.

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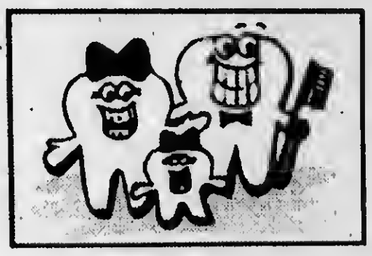

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Far South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 16

August 18, 2009

Oak Forest City information regarding approvals

On August 11, the Oak Forest City Council approved an award of contract in the amount of $158,000 to ERA Valdivia to paint the Oak Park Avenue water tower, which is located at 155th Street and Oak Park Avenue.

The hydro-pillar tower is 122' tall, stores up to 500,000 gallons of water, and maintains system pressure on the west side of town. "This contractor painted two other water towers for us in the past two years," said Public Works Director Troy Ishler. "They did an excellent job and we look forward to working with them on the Oak Park water tower as well."

The project will be funded through the water systems improvement portion of the city's Capital Improvement Plan, which also included face lifts for the Kilbourn Avenue and Lockwood Avenue water towers.

The Oak Park Avenue water tower was scheduled to be painted last year but it could not be taken out of service due to an unforeseen issue with an altitude valve at the Briar Street water tower.

In order to keep the water tower project on schedule, the Public Works Department worked with ERA Valdivia to issue a change of order so that the Lockwood Avenue water tower could be repainted first.

Oak Forest City Council appointed Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins, LTD (KTJ) as its new legal counsel – replacing Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni and Krafthefer. KTJ will assume full city attorney duties at the August 25 City Council meeting. The firm has represented Illinois municipalities, school districts and virtually all other types of Illinois local governmental entities since 1935.

The Oak Forest City Council approved a resolution by the Economic Advisory Committee to grant $10,000 to Oak Forest Bowl, 15240 S. Cicero Avenue, as part of the city's façade assistance program. The bowling alley will use the funds to help pay for approximately $30,647 of improvements, including enhancing its exterior, installing new signage, and parking lot improvements.

"This grant reaches far beyond the bowling alley," said Community Development Director Adam Dotson. "Not only are we investing in a local business, we're investing in our city's main commercial corridor. These enhancements tie in nicely with our overall vision for Cicero Avenue."

The façade assistance program is designed to help Oak Forest businesses look their best and, in so doing, improve the overall appearance of the city's commercial corridors. As part of the program, business owners must have permission from the property owner to apply for a grant; the improvements must be in full compliance with all city codes and regulations; and the business owner must present all facets of the project to the Economic Advisory Committee. Grantees are eligible for one third of the project cost up to $10,000. Eligible projects include upgrades or retrofitting of existing signage; installation of façade materials and landscaping; and architectural or engineering costs, and landscaping.

Three bids from qualified contractors are required for each project.

For more information, please visit the Community Development section of the city's Web site at www.oak-forest.org or call 708-687-4050.

Phase II of the Gateway Development at the northwest corner of 159th Street and Cicero Avenue is underway. During this stage of construction, the turn lane off of Cicero Avenue will be completed along with several new utilities. In addition, new curb, sidewalk and roadways will be installed. The parking areas and roadway on the north and east sides of the train station will be closed, except to construction traffic, until further notice.

The roadway that runs through the middle of the development will remain open at all times. Commuters should note that parking spaces one through 20 have been eliminated and spaces 27 through 32 are now handicapped spaces six through 10. Parking space 21 is now for Metra personnel only.

The city operates four other parking areas for commuters. The Waverly Avenue lot, located northeast of the train station, contains 154 daily fee spaces. The 157th Street lot, which is located immediately north of the train station, has 294 daily fee spaces. There also are 24 daily fee spaces along the south side of 158th Street – immediately east and west of Lamon Avenue. Finally, the Arbor commuter lot at the southwest corner of 159th Street and Oak Avenue has 481 spaces. Once complete, the Gateway Development will bring more than 50,000 square feet of new retail and restaurant space and 78 residential units to the city.

Tinley Park analyzes final details of master plan

Members from the Tinley Park Long Range Plan Commission, Main Street Commission and the Historical Preservation Commission along with other firms met with a representative from Ginkgo Planning and Design Inc at the Aug 4th Tinley Park Board of Trustees meeting. Topics covered were options for parking, streetscaping and storm water management. The village is in the final phase of creating a master plan for the downtown area and are analyzing the final details. The master plan is a long-range plan, which will set the guidelines for development over the next 20 years on Oak Park Avenue between 167th and 183rd streets.

Some of the details of the final phase of the yearlong environmentally friendly master plan are landscaping, crosswalks, parking and setting standards for spacing of trees to complete the plan. GPDI suggested the village consider using local foliage as well as local plants that are long lasting to create a good balance for well-manicured gardens. Other streetscape decisions also need to be made - one suggestion was a raised crosswalk to slow traffic, possibly a brick one to define pedestrian cross walk. Another final decision is parking on the main strip to accommodate bike paths and routes, said GPDI.

Decisions also need to made regarding the placement of a bike route. Officials said that there would need to be a detour on Oak Park Avenue from 170th to 175th streets due to the smaller right of way than the remainder of Oak Park Avenue. The village has a professional grant-writing firm, which will assist in applying for a multimillion-dollar U.S. Department of Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grants. The village is also applying for a $25 million dollar grant for the Zabrocki Plaza expansion and construction of a downtown parking deck and a $30 million grant to expand 80th Avenue over Interstate 80. Officials said it was possible to receive one or none of the grants.

Nancy Rosian of Orland Park, assistant manager of Together We Cope food pantry in Tinley Park , packs the first bag of food for the agency's new outreach program with Faith United Methodist Church in Oak Forest .

Faith United Methodist partners with Together We Cope

TWC assists families in temporary crisis from 22 south suburban communities. "Through this new program, we're forming a relationship with our local churches that allows us to reach more people in need," said Mary Ann Baer, director of development at TWC. "We have seen a tremendous increase in families seeking assistance in the current economic downturn. Hopefully, with this program we will reach more families." Baer said TWC hopes to establish similar relationships with other churches in the south suburbs in order to make it easier for families in need to get immediate response when they need food. "Hunger is the most painful symptom of an economic recession," Baer said, "and we at TWC are trying everything we can imagine to alleviate the pain for our neighbors." Further information is available from Baer at (708) 633-5040.

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South Suburban Edition

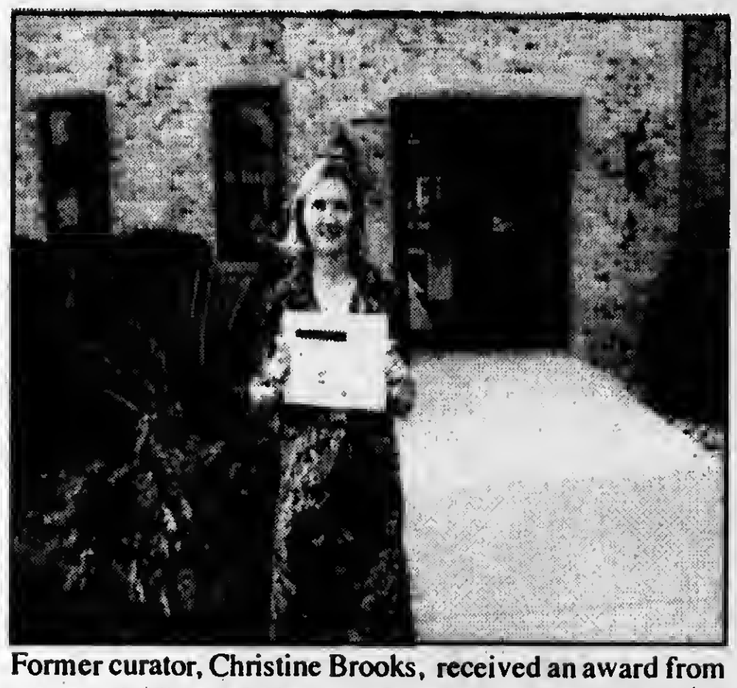
WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 16

August 18, 2009



Former curator, Christine Brooks, received an award from the Worth Village Board. She was recognized by Mayor Keller for being named "Illinoisan of the Day" and for her contributions to the Village of Worth. She dedicated herself to the Worth History Museum for many years. It was one of the best in the South Suburbs.

The Worth Museum is located in the Terrace Centre and is open during regular office hours. Curator hours are from 8:30am-12:30pm Monday-Thursday and upon request. Historical Society work days are Tuesdays from 10am-2pm. To contact the Museum call Colleen McElroy at 708-448-7080 ext. 107 or by email cmcelroy@worthparkdistrict.org

Mark your calendars for Worth Days

Come and enjoy all the fun at Worth Days Festival, at the Festival Grounds 7425 West 115 Street, Worth, IL. Starting Friday September 11, thru Sunday September 13, 2009. This year there is Music Entertainment for all 3 days, Children Area, food vendors, Beer Garden, Arts & Craft Fair, a large Carnival and much more. Saturday will be the Classic Car Show from Noon to 4 p.m, registration begins at 11 am. This year will be cars and motorcycles from the past. There also will be 5 Trophies Awarded. Sunday will be Parade and Fireworks at nighttime.

For more information and details on all Entertainment and Classic Car Show, contact 708-448-1181 or the website www.villageofworth.com

Worth Senior Drop in Center announces programs

Senior Drop In Center at the Terrace Centre Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the door is always open for new members! There is always a hot cup of coffee and a warm heart to greet you!

Stop in for a visit! Some of the weekly activities include:

Pinochle on Monday and Friday afternoons! Blood Pressure Screening on Monday mornings! "Stitch Witches" making laprobes for the VA Hospital on Thursdays! Worth Senior Citizens Commission meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month!

Senior Club at the Terrace Centre Between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. This club meets to enjoy activities and good friends! Monthly dues of $2 covers the cost of sweet rolls and coffee each week!

Senior Friendship Club at Peaks Park This club meets at 1:00 p.m., the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. This social group enjoys different activities and events as well as refreshments! Dues $10 yearly.

For further information about the Senior Center call 708-448-7080, Monday thru Friday, 9a.m. to 6 p.m.

Palos Heights Farmers Market

Farmers market is open Wednesdays at 7am - 1pm. Located next to Private Bank (formerly Founders Bank) at Rt. 83 and Harlem Ave. For information contact Palos Heights Chamber of Commerce at 708-923-2300.

Palos Heights Memorial Park hold Fun Fest

Don't forget to mark your calender for the Family Fun Fest at Memorial Park, in Palos Heights, IL. The Festival is Saturday, August 29th, 2009 from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. There is lots of things to do, Carnival Games, Music, Baking Contest for pies, cakes and cookies, Picnic Games, 3 legged race, Auction, and much more.

Bring your picnic basket, lawn chairs, and blankets. Free to residents [ID proof needed] or $5 charge for Non-residents, or with out proof of residents. Bracelet Required.

For more details contact 708-361-1800.

Palos Garage Sales participation

GARAGE SALES: East Olde Palos on Sept. 4 & 5 and West Olde Palos on Sept. 18 & 19. If you are interested in participating, please call Sue Blattner at 480-3017.

Palos Township announces property tax deadline

We wish to inform the residents of Palos Township that the thirty day time period to file a property assessment appeal application to August 28, 2009. Palos Township is located at 10802 S. Roberts Road in Palos Hills. Hours are Monday -Friday 8:30 am to 4:40 pm.

For more information call 708-598-4418. Please note: Property tax increases are directly related to the amount of money local taxing bodies request for spending.

Therefore, even in a declining market, tax bills will not go down unless taxing bodies reduce spending

Palos Park Annual Parade and Chili Cook-Off

The Village of Palos Park will celebrate its 95th Anniversary with the Annual Parade and Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, September 19, 2009.

The event will begin with a parade down McCarthy Road at 11:00 a.m. with Rosemary Kaptur serving as Grand Marshall. Festivities continue on the Village Green with an ICS (International Chili Society) district sanctioned and CASI (Chili Appreciation Society International) sanctioned Chili Cook-Off. National contestants, local residents and community groups will compete to see who cooks the best traditional chili, green chili and salsa.

The day's festivities will also include music from DJ Dance Factory and Those Guys, performances by Stage Door Dance and Stagg Poms, various children's activities, petting zoo and horse rides from The Center, and entertainment for the entire family. Participants can also enjoy food and drinks from various local vendors.

More sponsors are needed, so please contact the Palos Park Recreation Department if you are interested in supporting this event.

Also, if your family, school, business or community group would like to participate in the parade or Chili Cook-Off, please call the Palos Park Recreation Department at 708-671-3760

Palos District 118 Back to School Family Style Picnic

Join District 118 as they celebrate the students, teachers and families of the district and community. Everyone is welcome! The Village Green Wednesday, August 26, 20095:00 - 7:30 pm

There will be a variety of food available for purchase, including hotdogs, pizza, ice cream, roasted corn, sandwiches and Oriental delights. Complimentary treats and fun include: Slushies/ Popcorn, Games/Contests, Entertainment, Jesse White Tumblers, District 118 Band/DJ, Inflatable Fun Slides, Face Painting.

Additional parking at the Palos Presbyterian Church, the Palos Library and the Village Hall.

Fall Home Improvement & Auto Care issue is coming soon. Call for details and rates.
312-624-8996

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

B-MAC EDITION

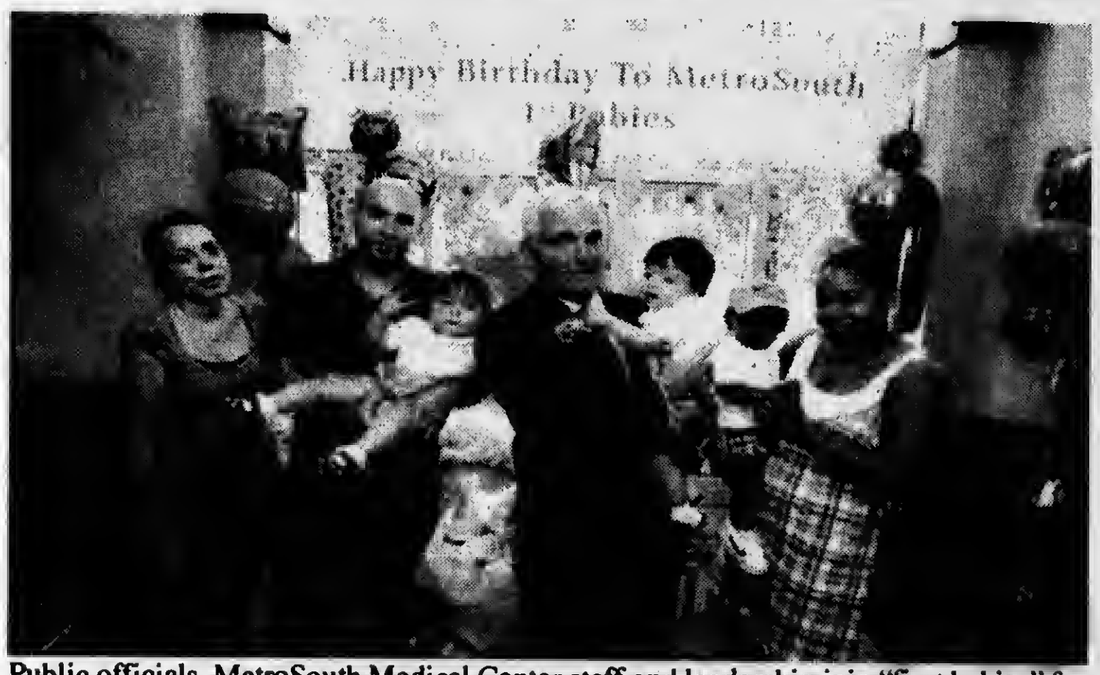
WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 16

August 18, 2009



Public officials, MetroSouth Medical Center staff and leadership join "first babies" for blowout 1st birthday celebration

Hospital saved from closure celebrates remarkable first year

Public officials, MetroSouth Medical Center staff and leadership join "first babies" for blowout 1st birthday celebration MetroSouth Medical Center leadership joined with more than 1,000 local dignitaries, physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, other staff and "first babies" born the first week the hospital reopened to celebrate a remarkable first year of accomplishments that are transforming an institution that was set to close just last year into one with considerable promise.

The former St. Francis Hospital & Health Center was nationally recognized for outstanding cardiac care and beloved by area residents for delivering compassionate, high-quality health care. However, with $40 million in losses over several years and another $20 million loss forecast for 2008, the owners of St. Francis announced in spring 2008 that the institution could not be sustained financially and must be closed. The hospital was purchased and reopened as MetroSouth Medical Center on July 30, 2008, with a new senior leadership team and the overwhelming majority of physicians and staff deciding to remain in place.

"We started with a beautiful facility, a highly qualified staff and an excellent reputation among multiple generations of patients who had been well-served over the last 10 decades," said MetroSouth Medical Center CEO Arnie Kimmel. "We had every confidence that we could build on these strengths by investing in new technologies, expanding our base of primary care physicians and specialists, and strengthening ties throughout the many towns surrounding the hospital."

In its first 12 months of operation, MetroSouth already has stemmed the multi-million dollar financial losses of the past. Additional first-year highlights include:

* Conversion of the hospital to all-private rooms, scheduled for completion this year

*A 20 percent increase in the number of babies born at MetroSouth Medical Center with the recruitment and relocation of the entire Women's Service from Michael Reese Hospital. The hospital offers moms-to-be in-house obstetrical coverage 24-hours, 7-days a week, and a full team of obstetricians, perinatologists for high-risk pregnancies, midwives and neonatologists.

* Expansion of hospital-affiliated primary care practices with 11 new physicians and new offices in Morgan Park, South Holland, Alsip, Blue Island and Orland Park by October of this year, with more to come.

*Several million dollars spent on capital improvements, including the addition of multiple imaging technologies that aid in diagnosis and treatment planning and allow multiple physicians to discuss the images from on- and offsite locations, speeding the delivery of results for patients.

*The conversion to Electronic Medical Rec-ords creating a paperless emergency room (ER) with new features benefiting patients and providers. The number of patients treated in the ER rose 15 percent over the prior year, while time spent from patient arrival to departure drop-ped by one-third with the assistance of Fast Track in the ER to expedite diag-nosis and treatment of minor injuries and illnesses.

* Retention of more than 80 percent of St. Francis Hospital physicians and staff, including the hospital's nationally recognized cardiac team.

*The hiring of more than 300 new employees – MetroSouth Medical Center is the No. 1 employer in Blue Island.

* Increased community outreach to inform and improve the health of area residents and increase awareness of the hospital, its providers and services. Hospital teams provide free screenings and health education at area busi-nesses and organizations, hospital signs appear in Spanish and English, and providers are as diverse as the communities served.

"We thank the entire MetroSouth team for their skills, energy and hard work, and the many communities we serve for their support and com-mitment to this hospital," Kimmel said. "Together, we have created a pheno-menal first year. We have every intention for this hospital to continue to thrive and still be a fantastic place for patients and providers another century from now."

Alsip approves issuance of bonds

The village board approved an ordinance at the Aug 13 Board of Trustees meeting approved the issuance of one or more obligation bonds series 2009, of the Village of Alsip, which authorizes the execution of one or more bond orders for the levy and collection of a direct annual tax for the payment of principle and interest on the bonds, which further provides for the execution of a deposit agreement and direction for redemption on connection to the bonds. The village has received an "AA" bond rating from Standard and Poors, which equates to a savings of some $200,000 over the life of the bond. The village has also received an A1 rating from Moodys.

Other highlights: The village board approved a resolution, which provides for a 3-percent wage pool increase for non-union salaried employees, excluding the police and fire chief. The increase is retroactive to May 1 2009. An ordinance request from the Planning and Zoning Committee granting a zoning map amendment and special use permit for the property located at 11925 S. Cicero Avenue was approved as well as a fire department request authorizing the sale of engine 2013, a 1990 FMC-Navistar pumper, which has been out of service for several months.

The board approved a request from Ujamaa Cionstruction Inc to have a construction trailer on the Enterprise Car Rental site at 12055 S. Cicero Avenue. A contract with Alsterda Construction for $25,690 to install a water main for Stony Creek School from 116th to 117th and Kenneth Avenue was also approved as well as a request to begin the interviewing process to hire a village properties employee to fill a vacancy left by a retiring employee.

Blue Island Park District Events

Meet James Swan, author of Chicago 's Irish Legion, the story of the 90th Illinois Regiment of the Civil War. This fascinating story of Irish Immigrants draws heavily from first-person observations as they marched over 2600 miles to fight in the Civil War.

Fewer than 230 returned to Chicago to be celebrated by Father Denis Dunne and other Irish residents of the city. Swan ends with survivors' lives post-war, adding a touching element to this fascinating Irish chronicle. Join the Blue Island Park District at Memorial Park Field house for light refreshments, a book signing and a Q&A session on Tuesday, August 18th at 7:00 pm. $5 per person. For more information call 708.385.3304.

Community Yard Sale & Craft Show

Visit Memorial Park in Blue Island on September 19th from 9am-4pm to search for unique treasures both old and new! Make it a one-stop-shopping outing as food and beverages will be available on site. Booth rentals are $15.00 each. For more information please call 708.385.3304.

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VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 36 Number 5

September 1, 2009

Stickney Township and Stickney Pubic Health District to host community health and caregiver fair

A variety of health, safety, and caregiver information for the community will be available at the Community Health and Caregiver Fair sponsored by Stickney Township and Public Health District. The health and caregiver fair will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2009 from 9 to 1p.m. at the Louis S. Viverito Senior Center 7745 S. Leamington Ave. Burbank, IL.

Local organizations and businesses will be available to answer questions and distribute information about many health, caregiver and safety topics, including healthy eating, immunizations, Medicare, senior services, and crime prevention. Some of the different organizations that are participating include Stickney Township Office on Aging, Stickney Public Health District nursing and mental health departments, Burbank Police and Fire Departments, Illinois Attorney General's Office, Walgreen's, Sertoma Speech and Hearing, and the Illinois State Treasure's Office .

Various screenings will also be offered at the event including blood pressure checks, cholesterol and diabetic screenings, spinal screenings, and body mass index. Flu shots will also be available to residents of Stickney Township. Car seat safety checks and fingerprinting of children will also take place.

For more information about the Community Health and Caregiver Fair, contact Stickney Township Office on Aging at (708) 636-8850.

Evergreen Park Library offers community needed programs

Employment University 104

Adults looking for assistance on career networking are encouraged to attend Employment University 104 at the library on Tuesday, September 8 from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m.

TAG (Teen Advisory Group) Meeting

The library's, TAG (Teen Advisory Group), for teens in sixth through twelfth grade will meet on Thursday, September 3 at 7:30 p.m. to express opinions about books, the Teen Space web page, and plan future programs.

Teens in the Kitchen: Back to School Lunches

Chef Kate Bradley will be at the library on Thursday, September 10 from 6:30-7:30 pm, to teach teens, grades 6-12, how to make tasty lunches. Samples will be provided. To register, call or stop by the library, or visit evergreenparklibrary.org.

Disney on a Budget

Adults are invited to "Disney on a Budget" at the library on Thursday, September 10 at 7:00 pm for tips on planning a budget friendly trip to Walt Disney World.

Teen Movie Night at the Library!

The library will show the movie, Brothers Grimm [PG13], to teens, grades 6-12 on Friday, September 11 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Toddler Time

The library's Toddler Time for children ages 18-35 months, accompanied by an adult will meet for interactive story times beginning the week of September 14 for 6 weeks on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. or Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Registration begins Saturday, September 5 at 9:00 a.m.

Preschool Story Time

The library's Preschool Story Time for children ages 3-5 years will meet for stories, songs and crafts beginning the week of September 14 for 6 weeks on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m., or Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. Registration begins Saturday, September 5 at 9:00 a.m.

Learn Microsoft Word Hands-On

The library invites adults to join John Hojek from Prairie State College on Tuesday, September 15 from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. and learn the basics of Microsoft Word hands-on. Registration is required along with $10.00 fee which will be refunded upon attendance.

Mehndi Jeans

On Tuesday, September 15 from 7:00 until 8:00 p.m., the library invites teens, in grades 6-12, to create mehndi designs on their jeans.

Back-To-School Bingo

The library will hold Back-To-School Bingo for children of all ages on Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Monarch Club

The library's Monarch Club for children in kindergarten through third grade will read Illinois children's choice book award nominations and have fun with crafts and games at 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays, September 16 through Oct. 21. evergreenparklibrary.org.

Basic Canning and Preserving with Chef Kate Bradley

Adults are invited to the library, on Thursday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m., to learn easy preserving and canning methods from Chef Kate Bradley. Samples to taste and copies of Chef Kate's recipes will be given. Registration and a $3.00 tasting fee are required.

Pajamarama

The library invites children of all ages to wear their pajamas to special family story times, on Thursdays, September 17, October 8, and October 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Baby Bookworms

The library's Baby Bookworms for children of ages birth to 17 months with a caregiver will meet for stories, songs, and rhymes for 6 weeks on Fridays at 9:30 a.m. from September 18 through October 23. Registration begins Saturday, September 5 at 9:00 a.m.

Bubblefest

The library invites children of all ages to celebrate the last days of summer at an outdoor Bubblefest on Saturday, September 19 at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Lego Club

The library's Lego Club for children in kindergarten through fifth grade will create different Lego themes at 1:00 p.m. Sundays Sept. 20 and Oct. 11.

Developing a High Impact Resume and Cover Letter

The library invites adults to a presentation by Rita Kribs of Moraine Valley Community College on Monday, September 21 at 6:30 p.m. about developing an effective resume and cover letter.

Staying Young for the First 100 Years

The library invites adults to "Staying Young for the First 100 Years", a presentation by physician and wellness advocate, Dr. Greg Cleofe, on Tuesday, September 22 at 7:00 p.m. **To register, call or stop by the library, or visit evergreenparklibrary.org.**

Laptops replace desktop computers

All Oak Lawn Community High School teachers received laptops for the 2009-2010 school year. The laptops are part of the school's commitment to update its technology. The laptops are integral to the school's new Advocacy program since all rooms in the school will be used for Advocacy sessions. Teachers can access student information, lesson plans, and helpful websites from any part of the building.

Teachers can also use their laptops off-campus to prepare lessons, enter gradebook information, and completc professional development activities.

South-Southwest Suburban United Way Chief Professional Officer Dr. James Washington III, Park Lawn Executive Director Jim Weise, UPS Workforce Planning Manager Human Resources Frank Barre III, and Fundraising Manager of United Way of Metro Chicago Ken Krull gather to help UPS employees clean the windows of non-profit organization Park Lawn as their United Way project.The goal was to help a non profit that is a United Way funded agency. A total of 12 UPS employees worked together on cleaning the windows at Park Lawn location on LaPorte Ave. in Oak Lawn. The UPS Foundation made a monetary donation as well to Park Lawn

Public Hearing regarding RV and Commercial Vehicle Parking

Cook County Commissioner Joan Patricia Murphy invites Cook County residents to attend a Public Hearing to discuss amendments of zoning ordinances regarding residential parking of commercial and recreational vehicles. There will be a public hearing of the Zoning and Building Committee on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room, Room 569, County Building, and 118 North Clark Street, Chicago.

The first item to be considered is in regard to the parking of recreational vehicles, RVs on residential properties, (RVs refer to all RVs, boats, trailers, snowmobiles, etc.) and the second to the parking of Commercial Vehicles on residential properties. The amendments can be viewed or downloaded at www.cookctyclerk.com under the post board agenda for July 21, 2009.

The public may testify at this meeting. Persons wishing to testify should call the Board Secretary at (312) 603-6127 for further details and instructions.

Commissioner Joan Patricia Murphy encourages all residents to attend to voice their opinions and concerns.

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas presents an award of excellence in her office to Dan Tun, special recreation instructor, Welles Park , Chicago Park District who will be running in the Chicago Marathon on behalf of the Special Olympics on October 11. "As one who has run in the Marathon , I offer my congratulations to you for both entering and for participating as a charity runner," said Pappas.

Military News

Air Force Airman 1st Class Sean E. Hazelip graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Hazelip earned distinction as an honor graduate of the course.

He is the son of Edwin Hazelip of S. Millard Ave., Alsip, Ill.

The airman graduated in the year 2000 from Dwight D. Eisenhower High School, Blue Island, Ill., and received an associate degree in 2002 from Brown College, Mendota Heights, Minn.

2nd Lt. Johanna M. Ciezczak, USMC 2nd Lt. Johanna M. Ciezczak, a resident of Chicago Ridge, graduated from Finley Jr. High in 2000. She is the daughter of Marie A. Ciezczak of Chicago Ridge, Il, and Stanley Ciezczak of Burbank, Il.

She graduated from Mother McAuley High School in 2004, and attended Purdue University on an ROTC scholarship. She graduated from Purdue University in 2008 with a degree in Law and Society and minors in Forensic Science and Naval Science. After being commissioned in May of 2008, she reported to TBS (The Basic School) for newly commissioned Marine Corps Officers in Quantico, Virginia.

After spending 26 weeks learning the art and science of being an Officer of Marines, she reported to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri for Military Police School. Upon graduation from MP School, she reported to Okinawa , Japan and is currently the District OIC for Camp Kinser . She is in charge of 50 enlisted MP's and JSG's (Japanese Security Guards) and of all the law enforcement and physical security of the base.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Locke announces $800,000 Recovery Act

Commerce Secretary Gary Locke announced an $800,000 Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to ACCION/ Chicago, Inc., of Chicago, Ill., to establish a revolving loan fund for business micro lending in Cook County. The project, made possible because of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), is expected to create additional jobs and private investment in the region.

"The Obama Administration is committed to creating jobs, encouraging innovation and improving our nation's economic competitiveness," Locke said. "This grant will help leverage private sector investment and create jobs in the Chicago area by making loan capital available to small startup and expanding businesses that are unable to access conventional lending sources."

The Recovery Act was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. It is providing immediate relief for American families and jump-starting billions of dollars in new projects that are creating jobs, improving infrastructure and strengthening local economies.

The Department of Commerce is a voice for Main Street businesses. It focuses on creating jobs within the communities.

EDA is an agency within the U.S. Commerce Department and supports the economic development needs of distressed communities throughout the United States. Its mission is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness and preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy.

Additional information on how EDA investments are helping distressed communities create a positive and sustainable economic future can be accessed at: http://www.eda.gov.

Historic Pullman Hosts Chicago Labor Day Event

Celebrating America 's Workers and Their Families

The Illinois AFL-CIO, Chicago Federation of Labor, Illinois Labor History Society, numerous other unions and social organizations join with groups from the south side Pullman community groups to host a rally and celebration of union history and current labor issues on Labor Day, September 7, 2009, at 2 pm. The location is the famous historical factory building at Chicago's Pullman State Historic Site, 111th Street and Cottage Grove Ave.

The Labor Day celebration features several speakers – including Gov. Patrick Quinn — celebrating the achievements of American working families and past and ongoing struggles for union wages, rights of citizenship, and equal opportunity in the workplace.

A special invitation has been extended to President Barack Obama and U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis.

The free program will be moderated by WCPT Radio host and longtime newsman Dick Kay.

Festivities include: Annual Labor Day Bike Ride; Rally; His to rical Exhibits and Presentations; Music, food and Performances; special guest speeches. Factory and Pullman Historic District tours offered following the event.

Major event sponsors include: State of Illinois AFL-CIO, Chicago Federation of Labor, Chicago Building Trades Council, Illinois Labor History Society, Pullman Business Council, Historic Pullman Foundation, Pullman Civic Organization, Pullman State Historic Site, Bronzeville/Black Chicagoan Historical Society, Calumet Heritage Partnership, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, The Chicago Center for Working Class Studies, Arise Chicago, Jobs with Justice, A. Phillip Randolph/Pullman Porters Museum, SEIU, AFSCME Council 31, United Steelworkers, UE Illinois, United Food and Commercial Workers, Ironworkers Local 1 & 63, Electrical Workers, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, Illinois State Senator Don Trotter, Illinois State Representatives Connie Howard and Marlow Colvin.

Address/Directions: 11035 S. Cottage Grove Ave. Convenient via Metra Electric Line and CTA Red Line/ Cottage Grove Bus.

Water Reclamation candidate open headquaters

On Friday, August 28th from 6-10PM, the Connor campaign celebrates the official opening of its campaign headquarters at 2727 N Halsted in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood.

Voters are encouraged to visit the office in order to speak with Connor regarding his campaign, as well as to meet the campaign staff and supporters. Visitors will also have the opportunity to partake in the Connor campaign's ballot petition drive by signing ballot petitions and offering to gather signatures on the campaign's behalf.

Todd Connor, 31, a Navy Veteran, served aboard the USS Bunker Hill during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Returning home, Connor went to work for the Illinois Inspector General to fight waste, fraud, and corruption throughout state government. Connor subsequently earned an MBA from the University of Chicago and joined Booz Allen Hamilton, a leading management-consulting firm.

For more information on Todd Connor and his campaign, visit www.toddconnor.org.

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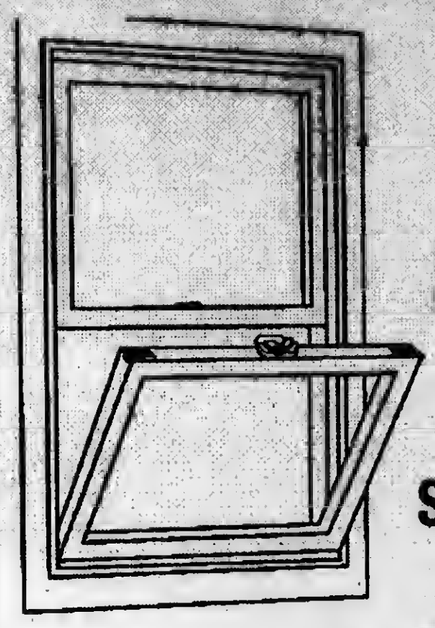

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YOUR BLISSFUL COLUMN
Topic of the Week: HEAL YOUR SKIN
by SHARON M. VOGEL

Our skin endures many seasonal and topical changes throughout our life. Sun, age, products, medications, medical conditions, emotions, allergies, and the world around us all affect the well being of the largest sensory organ in the body.

Involved in your peachy glow includes: Erector Pili muscle, nerves, oil glands, sweat glands, blood vessels, arteries, heat sensors, and layers upon layers of epithelials skin cells. We scrub and tug and poke and rub. Sometimes all we do is ignore. Our skin gets the ends of the spectrum treatment.

Perhaps less is more? **First**, let's figure out where we are. Look at its circulatory color, sun kissed freckles, texture, abrasions, pores, puffiness, or any abnormality. What have we done in the last thirty days with skin treatments, products, foods, medication, and hormonal levels. **Second**, where do we want to go? Are we looking for less breakouts? less flakiness? firmer skin? less redness? warm glow? even skin texture? smaller pores? **Third,** how are we going to get there? This is where I and my past 20 years of hands-on Spa Skin Care service fit into your life. Write, Call, Email, or Text me your Q s and I will offer up some A s!

Sharon M. Vogel, Owner / Operator Blissful Spa Space
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Planned Parenthood Urges Women to Visit Health Care Providers for Preventative Cancer Screening

September is Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month

Chicago, IL - Planned Parenthood of Illinois (PPIL) is celebrating Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month this September by encouraging women to visit their health care provider to receive preventative gynecologic cancer screenings and treatment.

According to the American Cancer Society, 78,490 women in the United States were diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer such as cervical, ovarian, uterine, vaginal and vulvar cancer in 2008; 28,490 died from one of these diseases.

"While gynecological cancers are prevalent, many can be preventable," said Steve Trombley, PPIL President and CEO. "It is imperative that women make regular visits to their health care providers for preventative screenings so that abnormal cells are detected before cancer develops. At PPIL, we are committed to providing women with the information and access to services they need to stay safe and healthy."

PPIL's 19 health centers offer comprehensive reproductive health care services to help screen for and prevent gynecological cancers including routine Pap tests and evaluation and management of abnormal Pap tests. Last year, PPIL provided nearly 22,000 Pap tests to women across the state. Women should get annual Pap tests starting at age 21, or within three years of becoming sexually active, whichever occurs first.

PPIL also offers the HPV vaccine, which protects against the types of HPV that most often cause cervical, vaginal and vulvar cancers. HPV, a common sexually transmitted infection, affects 1 in 4 women in their lifetime.

Cervical cancer screenings every three to five years could prevent 4 out of every 5 cases of invasive cancer.

In honor of Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month, patients can receive $5 off a Pap test or HPV Vaccine at any PPIL health center. Coupons will be accessible on the PPIL website, www.ppil.org, starting Monday, August 31 and are valid through September 30. As Illinois' most trusted provider of reproductive health care services, nearly 70,000 clients annually depend on PPIL for quality, affordable health care.

Things to do starting September in Evergreen Park

Thursday, September 3rd EP Farmer's Market continues with an abundance of fresh vegetables and fruit as well as fresh flowers. Located at Yukich Field 89th and Kedzie from 7am - 1pm.

Friday September 4th - EP Police Department presents the Fuzz Fest 6. Friday September 4 from 6-10pm at EP High School 99th and Kedzie Avenue.

Bring your family to join ours for a night of free fun, hot dogs, soda and goodies, Little Hobie Train Ride, petting zoo and much more.

Order a tree through our Fall Tree Program. Call 708-229-3373

Register your hot rod or classic car for our Annual Hot Rod/Classic Car Show to take place on Oct. 2nd.

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Scandinavian Park, Inc. NFP Invites You to the 30th Annual Scandinavian Day
Come Celebrate the Culture, Heritage & Traditions of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden at beautiful 25-acre Vasa Park, Route 31 in South Elgin, Illinois located along the Fox River.
Sunday, September 13: The 30th Annual Scandinavian Day Festival, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Adults $10.00, Children 12 & Under FREE * FREE PARKING * Rain or Shine * Look for the Scandinavian flags
Saturday, October 17: 9th Annual Fish Boil/Harvest Festival
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Hickory Hills exercise program

Hatha Yoga

Promote your awareness of physical and mental health by enrolling in a this class. Individuals 16 years and older can take part in this program on Wednesday evenings, 7:00 – 8:00 pm , at the Krueger Park Rec. Center, 9100 S. 88th Ave. This class runs from September 16 – October 28. Fee: Resident: $45; Non-Resident: $50 per session.

Cardio Fusion

This fast paced exercise class will vary between aerobics, step aerobics, abdominal exercise and interval training (using handheld weights, exercise bands and resist-a-ball). This class meets on Fridays from 6:30 – 7:30 pm , September 25- December 11, at Krueger Park Rec. Center . Participants must be 16 years and older. Fee: Resident $51; Non-Resident $56.

Fit & Flex

We have created this spunky but fun morning exercise program to help you gain or maintain your personal fitness goal. This class meets Monday & Wednesday from 9:15-10:15 am , September 21 – October 21, at Krueger Park Rec. Center .

Participants must be 18 years and older. Fee: Resident $35; Non-Resident $40.

Zumba

The hottest fitness craze is here... Zumba! Join us every Tuesday at Krueger Park Rec. Center from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. This high-energy class combines aerobic exercise with Latin dance moves. The steps are very repetitive and surprisingly easy to learn, not to mention fun! Pay at the door: Resident: $5; Non-Resident $6 (16yrs & Up).

Southwest Community Services announce programs

Tuesday Night Bingo, September 1

Southwest Community Services, Inc., (SCS), 6775 Prosperi Drive, Tinley Park, hosts weekly Tuesday Night Bingo. Doors open at 5:00 pm. Early bird games at 6:30, bingo at 7:00. Paper, computer, raffle, pull tabs, full concessions. Please, no outside food. Free coffee. Wheel chair accessible, air-conditioned, lighted parking. For additional information, visit www.swcsinc.org or call 708-429-1260 ext 4.

Tuesday Night Bingo Labor Day Celebration, September 8

Southwest Community Services, Inc., (SCS), 6775 Prosperi Drive, Tinley Park, hosts weekly Tuesday Night Bingo. Free hot dog and chips for all bingo players. Doors open at 5:00 pm. Early bird games at 6:30, bingo at 7:00. Paper, computer, raffle, pull tabs, full concessions. Please, no outside food. Free coffee. Wheel chair accessible, air-conditioned, lighted parking. For additional information, visit www.swcsinc.org or call 708-429-1260 ext 4.

Tuesday Night Bingo and Gold Refinery, September 15

The Gold Refinery will be available at bingo night. Bring your unwanted, broken or mismatched jewelry, coins, bars that are gold, white gold, and silver. Receive top dollar that night paid in cash for those items you choose to sell. Southwest Community Services, Inc., (SCS), 6775 Prosperi Drive, Tinley Park, hosts weekly Tuesday Night Bingo. Doors open at 4:30 pm. Early bird games at 6:30, bingo at 7:00. Paper, computer, raffle, pull tabs, full concessions. Please, no outside food. Free coffee. Wheel chair accessible, air-conditioned, lighted parking. For additional information, visit www.swcsinc.org or call 708-429-1260 ext 4.

Tuesday Night Bingo, September 22

Southwest Community Services, Inc., (SCS), 6775 Prosperi Drive, Tinley Park, hosts weekly Tuesday Night Bingo. Doors open at 5:00 pm. Early bird games at 6:30, bingo at 7:00. Paper, computer, raffle, pull tabs, full concessions. Please, no outside food. Free coffee. Wheel chair accessible, air-conditioned, lighted parking. For additional information, visit www.swcsinc.org or call 708-429-1260 ext 4.

Tuesday Night Bingo, September 29

Southwest Community Services, Inc., (SCS), 6775 Prosperi Drive, Tinley Park, hosts weekly Tuesday Night Bingo. Doors open at 5:00 pm. Early bird games at 6:30, bingo at 7:00. Paper, computer, raffle, pull tabs, full concessions. Please, no outside food. Free coffee. Wheel chair accessible, air-conditioned, lighted parking. For additional information, visit www.swcsinc.org or call 708-429-1260 ext 4.

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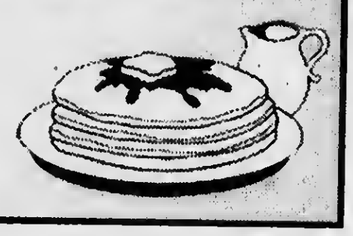

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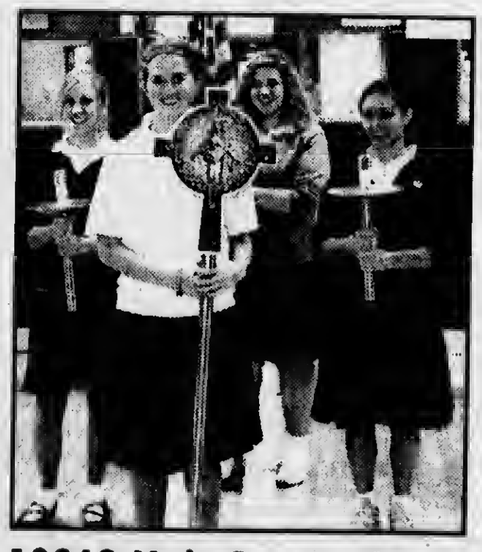
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Venetian Gardens Restaurant is not just a name

by Annette Dixon

Recently I visited Venetian Gardens Restaurant and never would I have guessed the decor of this restaurant by the name.

I was pleasantly surprised to see an American eatery with walls decorated with mini sailboat models and on the second floor stood a set of full armour, as I would call it a knight in shiney armour. The whole place is all American and very cozy. The lounge is off in its own corner with tables for eating, for adults only. The restaurant is equipped with beautiful leather bench seats in a booth style setting.

I have passed this place many times and didn't think to stop, but surely was happy that I did this time.

The Sam Dardha family own and run this establishment and it was Sam's father who taught him the business.

Father Auzi and his brothers started Ray's Restaurant in Chicago on 40th and Western Ave. After 18 years of restaurant experience, Sam started his own restaurant in Bridgeview Gardens on Roberts Road. For the past 10 years, his wife Angi works with Sam in the kitchen. Venetian Gardens is open 7 days a week from 11 am until 10 pm. Sunday through Thurs and 11 am until 11 pm Friday and Saturday. The lounge hours are 11 am until 2 am.

Sam mentioned, "we have homemade pizza all day." Well Sammy's Homemade Pizza has thick or thin crust, but you can ony order cheese, sausage, pepperoni or veggi, only $9.95.

They specialize in preparing steaks, chops and seafood, prices start at $9.95 to $19.95. Surf and Turf days are on Wednesday for $19.95. Dinners come with a choice or potatoe, soup or salad and warm homemade bread.

They serve at least 6 entree meals for children complete with milk or soda and ice cream for dessert for only $4.95 each.

They also serve open face sandwiches which includes a bowl of soup and mashed potatoes and gravy only $5.95 and grilled sandwiches, which start at $5.95 includes french fries and coleslaw.

This is a family restaurant with ambiance and plenty of parking. Experience good homemade cooking with the aroma and taste that comes with it, you won't be disappointed.

Venetian Gardens Restaurant is easy to find, 6955 South Roberts Road, it looks like a ranch home. They are open 7 days a week and the phone number is 708-458-0900.

Hickory Hills Park District announces dance program

Enrollment has begun for the HHPD 2009 – 2010 dance program. We have a number of classes for ages 3 – adult. Ballet begins at age 3 and runs through high school; tap begins at age 5 and runs through high school; and jazz begins at age 6 and runs through adult.

Classes run from September 12 – May 15 (approximately 29 weeks) with an annual recital at the end. Fees range from $102 for a 30 minute class to $182 for an hour and a half class. Non-residents must add $5 per class per student to these fees.

We have a dance company that competes and performs locally and nationally. Fees run $122 - $232 for classes plus additional fees for competitions and transportation. Every year, our competition dancers perform at Six Flags and compete at the Show Stopper competition. Every two years, our competition team goes out of state to compete. We have performed on the Royal Caribbean Cruise Ship, Disney World, and Central Park in New York City. Many of our dancers have performed in the children's division of the Joffery Ballet Nutcracker. For information call 708-598-1233.

Fireside in Wisconsin offers Christian Concerts

by Annette Dixon

This year the Triumphant Quartet appears September 22 and 23, and the Pfeifers appear on December 1 and 2nd, 2009. The Fireside Theatre offers ticket and dinner, which includes fish and chicken buffet for only $32.95 plus tax.

Arrival times are 10:30 am for Tuesday matinee and 5:00 pm for Tues. and Wednesday evenings. Advance reservations are recommended and groups of any size are welcomed.

The Fireside Theatre and Restaurant is in Fort Atkinson, WI. The Klopcic Family announced their 45th year anniversary and said Pat Boone was booked for their first Christian Concert more than 25 years ago.

August 27th through November 1st, 2009, the Klopcic Family presents the Sound of Music. They offer a special Youth package for all performances and dinner and theatre packages.

Contact the box office by calling 800-477-9505 or www.firesidetheatre.com

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ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH
TRIBUTE TO 9/11 5PM–MIDNIGHT
5:00pm - Erica Lozza ~ *Acoustic Country*
5:30pm - Rendoke ~ *Live Band Karoake*
6:30pm - Rendition ~ *Pop Rock & Dance Variety*
8:00pm - The Brave ~ *9/11 Tribute - Classic Rock*
10:00pm - Maggie Speaks ~ *Rock Variety*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH
1:00PM–MIDNIGHT
2:00pm - Starlighters ~ *Swingin' Big Band*
4:00pm - Hey Jimmy ~ *Dance Rock Variety*
6:00pm - Five Guys Named Moe ~ *Rock Variety*
8:00pm - Girl Next Door ~ *Female Rock*
10:00pm -Ides of March ~ *Rock*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH
1:00PM–10:30PM
2:00pm - Crazy Rocket Fuel ~ *All Female Rockabilly*
4:30pm - Badd Attitude ~ *Rock Variety*
6:30pm - ARRA ~ *Classic Rock*
8:30pm - DotDotDot ~ *Modern Rock & Pop*

Classic Car Show
Saturday, September 12th
from Noon-4:00pm
Registration at 11:00am

WORTH DAYS PARADE
Sunday, September 13th
12:00pm on 111th Street

FIREWORKS!!!!
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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

CARNIVAL BY ALL AROUND AMUSEMENT, INC.
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• BRACELET DAYS $20 ride all the rides Sat. or Sun. 1-6pm

PLENTY OF FREE PARKING

KID'S ENTERTAINMENT!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH
5:00-8:00PM - Games Galore, Mini Golf, Spin, Sand & Easel Art, Face Painting & Tattoos

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH
1:00-8:00PM - Games Galore, Mini Golf, Spin, Sand & Easel Art, Face Painting & Tattoos
2:00-6:00pm - Petting Zoo
3:00-4:00pm - DJ Interactive
7:00-8:00pm - Mr. D's Magic Show

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH
1:00-6:00PM - Games Galore, Mini Golf, Spin, Sand & Easel Art, Face Painting & Tattoos
2:00-5:00pm - Pony Rides
2:30-3:30pm - Dave Rudolph
5:00pm - Charissa Hannah Montana Tribute Show

BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT!!!
Saturday, Sept. 12th Registration at 3:00 pm
Sunday, Sept. 13th Registration at 1:00 pm

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Admisson $3.00 Worth Residents, $5.00 Non-Resident
Children 18 & Under & Seniors Over 60 & Military Personnel with ID are FREE!

Hit Man David Foster and Friends appear at the Rosemont for one night only

Famed musical showman, producer and songwriter David Foster will debut his new concert "HIT MAN: David Foster and Friends" at the Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 7:30 p.m. Foster, whose PBS "Great Performances" special, "HIT MAN: David Foster and Friends" was one of the most popular PBS pledge drive programs ever, will be joined on stage by an all-star band and line-up including Grammy Award-winner Philip Bailey from the chart-topping group "Earth, Wind and Fire;" Grammy and Academy Award nominee Peter Cetera; teenage Oprah Winfrey discovery Charice Pempengco; "American Idol" Australian heartthrob contestant Michael Johns, and other greats. Tickets went on sale Friday, Aug. 28.

As is typical of Foster's performances, fans should prepare themselves for surprise visits from his friends at every concert. The owner of arguably the most impressive rolodex in the music industry, Foster has yet to reveal which special guests might visit him on stage during the tour. "Cher and Donny Osmond both surprised me by joining me on stage in Las Vegas.

Canadian born David Foster has worked with a virtual "who's who" of the music world as a composer, singer, songwriter, arranger, record producer and musician. A short list of the artists whose careers he has influenced includes Whitney Houston, Barbra Streisand, Josh Groban, Cher, Dolly Parton, Paul McCartney, Chris Botti, Barry Manilow, Celine Dion, Michael Bublé, Andrea Bocelli, Chaka Khan, Madonna, Michael Jackson, Christina Aguilera and the bands "Chicago," "Earth, Wind and Fire," "Destiny's Child" and hundreds of others. In 1995, Foster became the recipient of the Order of British Columbia, the highest honor awarded in his native province of British Columbia. Foster became an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2006.

Foster has won 15 Grammy Awards (three for producer of the year) and has been nominated a total of 44 times.

"HIT MAN: David Foster and Friends" will be presented at the Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range in price from $55 to $125 and you can go online atwww.ticketmaster.com or by calling Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000. Tickets are also available for purchase at the Rosemont Theatre box office and at all Ticketmaster outlets

BAC Debuts Sunday Series of Music and Theater Performances

Sunday afternoons is the perfect time to enjoy a matinee. This fall the Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th St., Chicago, debuts its Sunday Series of music and theater performances, beginning with "The Lion's Roar: A Celebration of MGM Musicals" on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2 p.m.

Also featured in the Sunday Series are Thomas Pandolfi's "Into the Night With Gershwin" Sun., Oct. 11, 3 p.m., "Meet Me in St. Louis," Sun., Dec. 6, 4 p.m. and "A White Christmas Holiday Revue," Sun., Dec. 20, 3 p.m. Individual ticket prices range from $15 to $10 ($12 to 8 for BAC members). A special four-show package is available for $40 ($36 for BAC members).

Created by Anthony Whitaker, Coordinator of the BAC School of Theater, "The Lions Roar" is a lively compilation of songs, dances and sketches from more than a dozen of America 's most beloved musicals. During the 1940s and 1950s, MGM brought more top musicals to the screen than any other studio featuring stars like Judy Garland, Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly and Frank Sinatra. The revue will include favorites such as "Over the Rainbow" ("The Wizard of Oz"), "I Got Rhythm" ("American in Paris"), "Just in Time" ("Bells Are Ringing"), "Singing in the Rain" ("Singing in the Rain"), "That's Entertainment" ("The Band Wagon"), and "Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat" ("Guys and Dolls"). Performers are Whitaker along with Emily Dugan and Jamal Howard, both of the BAC staff; Bonnie Johnson who started her musical training at the BAC; and pianist Kyle Moore. All of the performers are professional actors and singers.

"Into the Night With Gershwin" is performed by pianist Thomas Pandolfi whose performances bring back the golden age of pianio. Pandolfi is considered a leading interpreter of the works of George Gershwin. Among the pieces he will play at the BAC are a medley of Gershwin favorites including "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off," "Our Love is Here to Stay," "The Man I Love" and "I Got Rhythm;" themes from "Porgy and Bess;" and the solo version of "Rhapsody in Blue."

A graduate of the Julliard School , Pandolfi has performed with many European and American orchestras and is praised for his innovative program-ming.

"A White Christmas Holiday Revue" is inspired by the film classic "White Christmas" and takes audiences on a magical holiday journey from a World War II performance for the troops to a charming New England resort town. Featuring 30 favorite tunes such as *"Home For The Holidays," "Baby It's Cold Outside" and "White Christmas," this unforget-able* revue will warm your heart with its talented cast, lavish costumes, classic music, gentle comedy and timeless sentiment.

"The Lion's Roar: A Celebration of MGM Musicals" is Sun., Sept. 27, 2 p.m., $15, $12/BAC members, $10/groups of 10 or more. "Into the Night with Gershwin" is Sun., Oct. 11, 3 p.m., $15, $12/BAC members. "Meet Me in St. Louis" is Sun., Dec. 6, 4 p.m., $10, $8/BAC members and students. "A White Christmas Holiday Review" is Sun., Dec. 29, 3 p.m., $15, $12/BAC members, $10/groups of 10 or more. The four-show package is $40, $36/BAC members. For tickets and information call 773-445-3838. Purchase tickets online at www.beverlyartcenter.org.

-

Transportation: *Metra Rock Island to 111th Street/ Beverly Hills; CTA 111th Street from 95th Street Red Line; PACE 349 and 49A Western Avenue.*

Ava Logan Jazzes Up the Stage at Trinity

Palos Heights, Ill.: The annual Black and White Dress-up Night of Jazz at Trinity Christian College will once again feature singer Ava Logan on Friday, September 11, in the Ozinga Chapel. The Trinity Jazz Band will open the evening at 7 p.m., followed by Logan 's performance at 7:30 p.m.

The classically trained vocalist has performed jazz, pop, and rhythm and blues in the U.S. and abroad. Logan has also portrayed two of her idols, Ella Fitzgerald and Nancy Wilson, at the Black Ensemble Theater.

Each year community members, students, and faculty enjoy dressing in black and white evening wear, listening to great jazz music, and mingling over refreshments after the performance. The Night of Jazz is sponsored by Trinity's Cultural Affairs Committee and the Music Department.

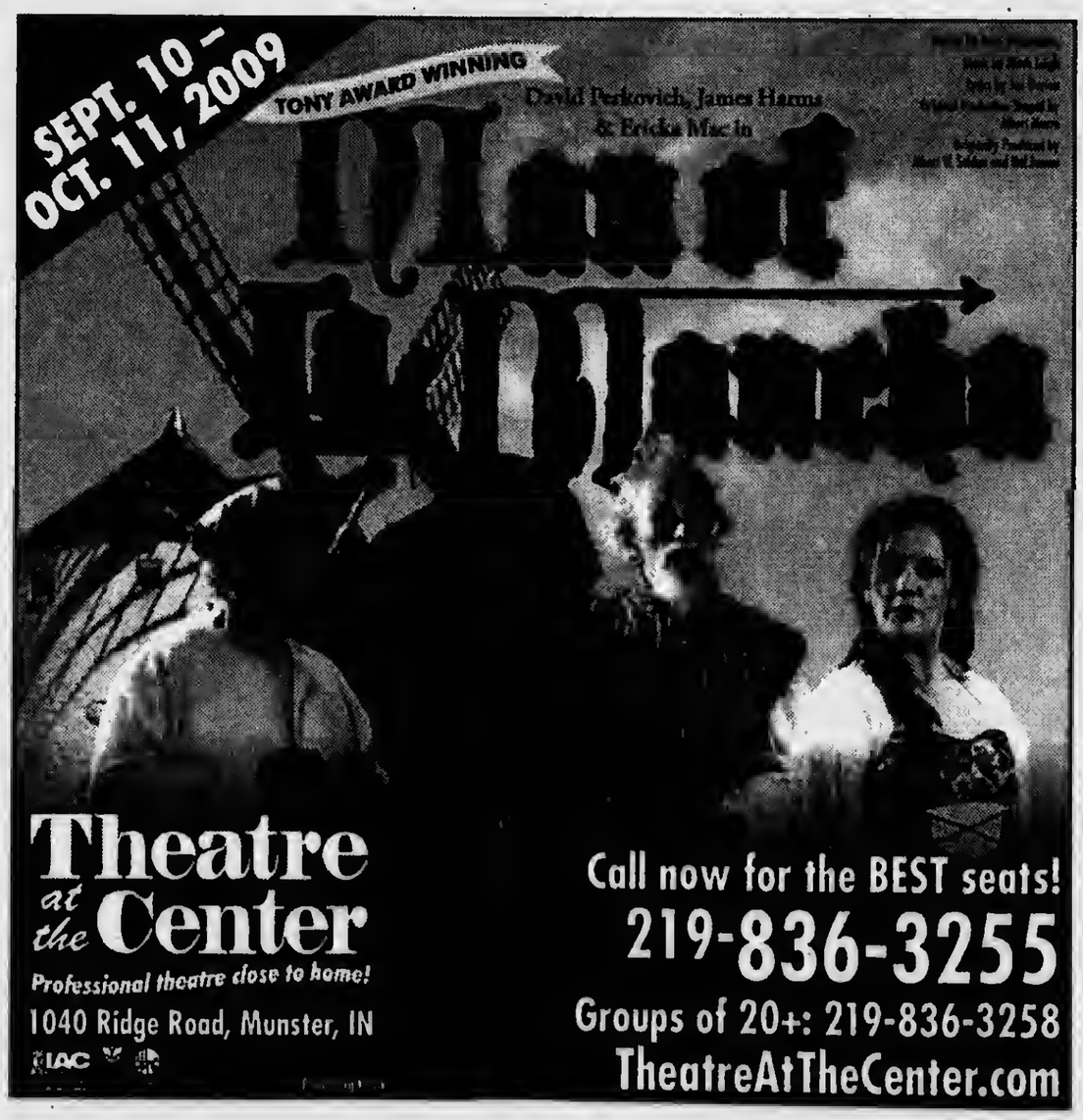
The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 708.597.3000.

Ava Logan—Biography

Ava Logan is an award winning singer-actress from Washington , D.C. , who now lives in the Chicago area. A graduate of Yale and the University of Pennsylvania , Dr. Logan is a veterinarian by day and a jazz singer at night. The classically trained vocalist has performed jazz, pop, and rhythm and blues in the U.S. and abroad. She has portrayed two of her idols, Ella Fitzgerald and Nancy Wilson, at the Black Ensemble Theater.

Logan recently completed a tour as a regular weekly performer at the Palm Court Lounge of Chicago 's historic Drake Hotel. She has appeared at some of Chicago 's most esteemed music venues including the Chicago Cultural Center , Millennium Park , and Maxim's for the City of Chicago , The Drury Lane Theater, and at the jazz venues Pops for Champagne , the Green Dolphin, and Cuartro's. Her first CD, "So Many Stars," was produced by Henry Johnson, and includes the work of many world renowned musicians.

Trinity Christian College is a community of Christian scholarship committed to shaping lives and transforming culture. The College, located in Palos Heights , Ill. , has been educating Christian leaders in the liberal arts for 50 years.



Chicago Opera Theater Presents Chicago's First Ever OPERA CRUISE "High C's on the High Seas" Thursday, September 24, 2009

CHICAGO, IL (August 27, 2009) – On Thursday, September 24th, 2009 Chicago Opera Theater (COT) will set sail on Lake Michigan for an evening of song, drink, and dancing! Chicago's first-ever "Opera Cruise" will feature past COT singers, Andriana Chuchman and Jorge Prego.

"I am very much looking forward to a lovely evening out on the water with our COT friends and family," said General Director Brian Dickie. "This is a wonderful opportunity to experience 'Opera Less Ordinary' outside of the spring, and we hope this will be the first of many events with our patrons this coming year."

The boat sets off promptly at 6pm with hors d'oeuvres and an open bar (including wine, beer, and COT's Signature Cocktail "Opera-tini") available throughout the evening. There will also be a "Chicago Less Ordinary" raffle featuring prizes from WXRT, L20, Randolph Wine Cellars and The Tasting Room, and PRP Wine International, Inc.

The evening kicks off with a short concert by Andriana Chuchman and Jorge Prego featuring favorites from opera and musical theater. Ms. Chuchman received rave reviews as Dorinda in Chicago Opera Theater's 2008 production of Orlando. She will return to COT in 2010 singing Alinda in Giasone. Mr. Prego is a current member of Chicago Opera Theater's Young Artist Program. As a Young Artist during the 2009 Season, he performed at COT's Annual Gala in a tribute to General Director Brian Dickie, as well as in a much-heralded concert at the Chicago Cultural Center.

The Opera Cruise continues with dancing under the stars and over Lake Michigan until the boat docks at 8pm.

What: COT's First Annual (and Chicago's first-ever!) Opera Cruise

When: Thursday, September 24th, from 6-8pm (boarding begins at 5:30pm, the boat leaves promptly at 6pm)

Where: Kanan Cruises on Navy Pier

Cost: $85 per person (Groups of 8 or more $70)

Cocktail Attire Suggested!

Tickets: 312.704.8414 or ChicagoOperaTheater.org Chicago Opera Theater's Opera Cruise is generously sponsored by New Amsterdam Straight Gin and Alamos, The Wines of Catena.

ABOUT CHICAGO OPERA THEATER

Founded in 1974 by Alan Stone, Chicago Opera Theater has carved a significant place for itself in the operatic life of Chicago and has reached an audience of hundreds of thousands through its main stage performances, outreach, education and young artist programs. Since Brian Dickie's appointment as General Director in 1999, COT has evolved as an opera company that is young, fresh, and colorful - an image well suited to its surroundings at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park.

Chicago Opera Theater's 2010 Spring Festival Season includes Rossini's Mosè in Egitto, Cavalli's Giasone, and Jake Heggie's Three Decembers.

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Attorney Michael J. Maslanka, 312-641-2424 or michael.maslanka@sgmclegal.com

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Wedding Announcement

Kathleen Parnell and David Garcia of Oak Lawn announce their engagement. The couple will marry September 4th at the Martinique in Burbank.

The bride elect is the daughter of the late Phyllis Liekis and step-daughter of Gerald Liekis of Burbank.

The future bridegroom is the son of the late Manuel Garcia and Josephina Garcia, also of Burbank.

The bride-elect is a radiologic technologist and the future bridegroom is a carpenter.

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Far South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 17

September 1, 2009

MAA All-Alumnae Open House

Mount Assisi Academy 3rd Annual All-Alumnae Open House honors Classes of 1959, 1984 and 1999 Mount Assisi Academy will host its Third Annual All-Alumnae Open House Sunday, September 27, 2009 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. All alumnae and members of their families are invited back to the 'Hill' for a trip down memory lane. Special recognition will be given to members of the Class of 1958 – celebrating 50 years; Class of 1984 – celebrating 25 years; and the Class of 1999 – celebrating 10 years since graduation.

The afternoon open house and reunion will feature tours of the Mount Assisi Academy campus and provide alums and their families an opportunity to visit with old friends, as well as past and current Mount Assisi faculty members, and see what's new at the school. A demonstration of MAA's tablet laptop learning technology will be featured, along with Alumnae Volleyball and Softball Games featuring the MAA Alumnae Dream Teams.

Former MAA volleyball and softball team members are invited to come out, suit up and get some exercise! Members of the Classes of 1958, 1984 and 1999 will be honored in a ceremony at 1:00 p.m., followed by the Alumnae Volleyball Game at 1:30 p.m. and Alumnae Softball Game at 2:00 p.m. A light lunch and refreshments will be served. Interested alumnae should contact Sister Ann Barbara Plavac, SSFCR at 630-257-7844 ext. 26 - no later than Wednesday September 23 to RSVP for the Open House and/or register for Alumnae Volleyball and/or Softball Games. For more information, please call 630-257-7844, ext. 26.

Orland Township offers reward in Alpine Heights Vandalism Incident

The Orland Township Board of Trustees is offering a $2,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the defacement of nearly two dozen properties in the unincorporated Alpine Heights subdivision earlier this month.

During the early morning hours of August 5, nearly 20 homes and vehicles in the subdivision were spray painted with various symbols, including ethnic slurs and pornographic images. The case is being investigated by the Cook County Sheriff's Police.

Township Supervisor Paul O'Grady said the board decided to offer the reward in an effort to help restore a sense of peace and safety to the community.

"We believe offering this reward may be just the thing to help police crack the case and bring this disturbing ordeal to a successful conclusion," Supervisor O'Grady said. Earlier this month, Sheriff's Police passed out flyers to Alpine Heights neighbors featuring a photo of two unknown people walking in the subdivision about 4:40 a.m. on the day of the incident. The two unidentified males are wanted for questioning in connection with this case.

The Alpine Heights subdivision is located in unincorporated Orland Township at 167th and Wolf Road and consists of nearly 200 single family and 40 town homes. Anyone with information regarding this case is asked to call the Sheriff's Police Detective Division at (708) 865-4896.

What's new in Oak Forest

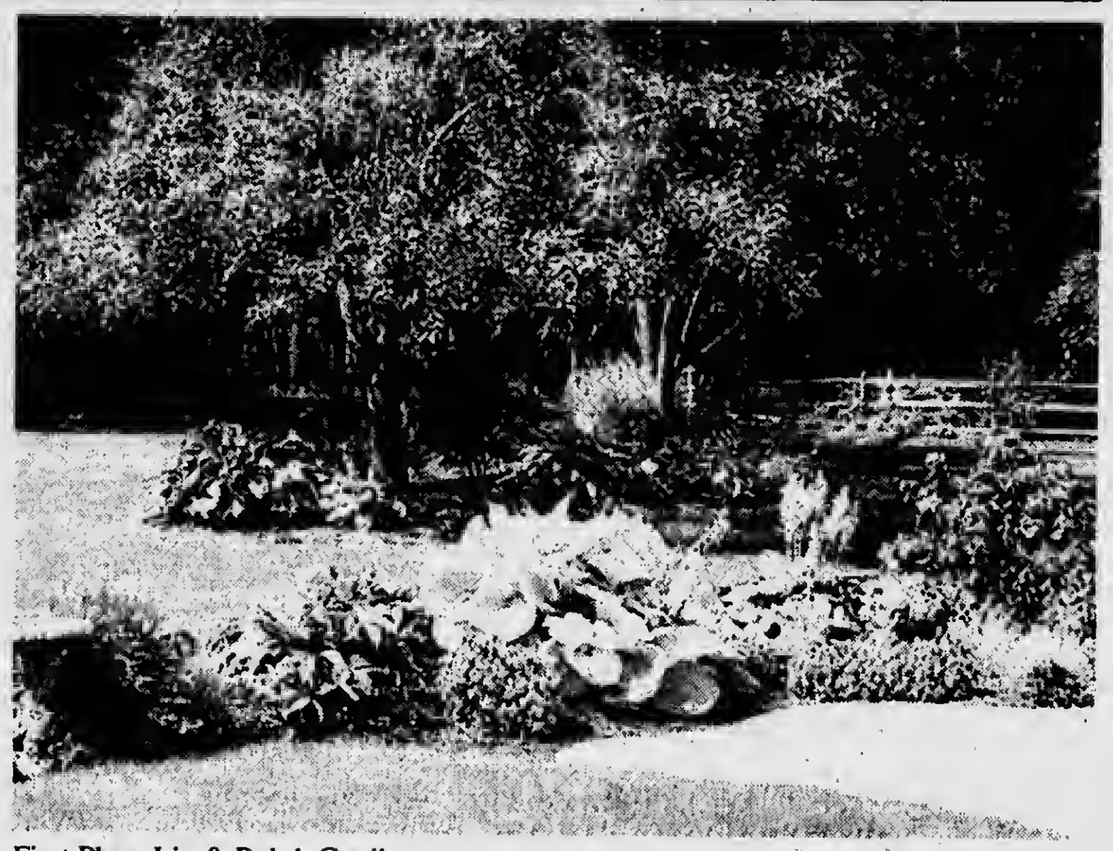
Business owners: Share your ideas at the next business forum on September 3

Oak Forest business owners are invited to exchange ideas, thoughts and opinions with other local businesses, the Oak Forest Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Hank Kuspa and city staff on Thursday, September 3 at 5 p.m. at Gaelic Park, 6119 W. 147th Street.

Oak Forest Park District hosts dance party

The Oak Forest Park District, 15601 S. Central Avenue, will be hosting a "School's Out" Dance/ Party for all 4th thru 8th graders on Friday September 11th 6:00 – 8:30pm at El Morro Park 155th & Arroyo.

The cost is $6 at the door with a school ID. Groove to the DJ, play some volleyball, jump in the moonwalk or just come hang out with you friends and have a good time. If you have any questions please contact Gina Byrnes at (708) 687-7270 ex119.



First Place Liz & Ralph Credio

Village of Orland Park announces 2009 Garden Contest Winners

The Village of Orland Park is pleased to announce the winners of the eleventh Annual Garden Contest. The contest is open to amateur gardeners who are residents of detached, single-family homes within the corporate limits of Orland Park .

Liz Credio will receive the **First Place Award** for her garden. Credio's property contains many separate garden beds and sitting areas along with fun and well-placed lawn ornaments. She has a large variety of plants, flowers and shrubs with many textures and colors.

Dawn Korolenko's garden has been chosen to receive the **Second Place Award**. This is a beautiful yard with flower beds, yard ornaments, a path filled with foliage and many flower pots on the patio.

The **Third Place Award** will be presented to Joseph O'Boyle for his beautifully landscaped yard that is bordered with a colorful variety of flowers. O'Boyle's yard is perfectly manicured and maintained.

An Honorable Mention award will be presented to Mary and Dave Evans for "Best Hardscape Yard." The Evans' yard features a pool, ponds with plants and stone and an outdoor fireplace.

The Credio, Korolenko and Evans yards were all featured on this year's Open Lands of Orland Park Garden Walk in June.

Village Trustee Brad O'Halloran initiated the Garden Contest in 1999 to recognize Orland Park residents for their work in beautifying and maintaining their property. Trustee O'Halloran stated, "There are so many outstanding gardens in Orland Park planted and maintained by our residents. We're proud to recognize these gardeners for the beautiful and talented work they have done on their property." I encourage more residents to enter the contest each year," he added.

Gardens were judged on overall appearance and maintenance, use of color, texture and native plants, variety and combination of plants and flowers, suitability of plants and landscaping and special or unique features. Judges included Master Gardeners Judith Jacobs and Elaine Cooper. Awards will be presented to the winners at the Village of Orland Park Board of Trustees meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 2009.

Catholic Charities increases outreach for public health

In June 2009, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago received a grant funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to assist Chicago residents with the application and receipt of government funded public benefits. The Public Benefits Outreach and Enrollment program is designed to assist families and individuals in need who are struggling financially during the economic recession.

The professionally trained staff of the Benefit Enrollment Program at Catholic Charities will provide screenings at various sites throughout the city including parishes, schools and community centers. Screenings will be completed using secured wireless technology to ensure the fastest and most accurate screening process possible.

In addition to the screenings, individuals who are eligible for public benefits will be assisted by the Benefit Enrollment Staff with the application process and in obtaining the necessary documentation. Staff will follow up with the individuals until a determination is made regarding the benefit application. Staff may also be able to provide other support services.

Staff will be able to screen for various benefits, including but not limited to the following:

·Food Stamps
·Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program
·Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) All Kids Health Insurance Program
· Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
· FAMILYCARE Health Insurance for Parents

The program went into effect June 15, 2009 and runs for 15 months.

If you are interested in a screening, please contact Catholic Charities at (312) 655-7700 to schedule a screening with the Benefit Enrollment Program.

The Public Benefits Outreach and Enrollment Project is made possible through a grant from the City of Chicago's Department of Family and Support Services, which receives money from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, founded in 1917, is one of the largest private, not-for-profit social service agencies in the Midwest, serving Cook and Lake Counties. Catholic Charities serves and employs people regardless of religion, race, nationality, ethnicity or social or economic circumstance. For more information, please visit www.catholiccharities.net

Orland Park Recreation Offers Variety of Gymnastics Programs

The Village of Orland Park Recreation Department's Gymnastics Program is directed by Kevin Quirk and United Gymnastics Academy of Frankfort, IL. "The village offers an all-inclusive program with UGA," said Recreation Program Supervisor Quincy Bejster. "We start with our Gym Cubs for two and three year olds, cover all age groups in between, and offer Gymnastics Competitive Training for those up to eighteen years of age," Bejster added.

Orland Park's gymnastics classes are offered in the gymnastics studio of the village's Sportsplex at 11351 West 159th Street . Detailed class descriptions can be found in the Orland Park Recreation Department Fall Program Guide or on line in the recreation area of the village's website, www.orland-park.il.us. The first fall session begins September 8. Registration and further information are available at the Sportsplex and at the Franklin Loebe Recreation Center , 14650 South Ravinia Avenue . For more information, call 708/645-PLAY.

Orland Park Sportsplex Promotes Kids' Fitness

The Village of Orland Park Recreation Department is offering two fitness programs during its fall session, geared toward making children more physically fit and aware of the importance of nutrition.

In Kids' Fitness and More, preschoolers, ages four to six, will learn about the importance of staying active and being healthy at any age. Participants will enjoy sports, fitness conditioning and learn about nutrition. Children should bring a healthy snack to the class that meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings from September 22 through November 12.

Children ages seven to fourteen are invited to register for the department's Kids' Fitness Club. This program includes working out under the supervision of a certified trainer. Participants will learn nutrition, eating tips, stretching and healthy habits while setting realistic fitness goals. Three or four day a week enrollments are available during the three sessions of the program, the first of which begins September 8.

Each class is limited to ten participants. Registration and further information are available at the Village of Orland Park Sportsplex , 11351 West 159th Street , or by calling 708/645-PLAY.

"Kick It" At Orland Park Sportsplex Boot Camp

Fitness enthusiasts wanting an intense, early morning work out will want to try the Village of Orland Park Recreation Department's Kicking It Boot Camp. Open to those ages eighteen and older, the 6:30 a.m. class will meet in the Sportsplex Aerobics Studio, 11351 West 159th Street . Weights, tubes, medicine balls, jump ropes and hoops will be used. Both men and women are invited to participate in this program designed to boost participants' routines and get them into shape. The cost is $90 for village residents, $135 for non-residents and $85 for Sportsplex members. Two sessions are available, September 9 to October 5 and October 7 to November 2. For more information, call 708/645-PLAY.

Spanish for All Ages Offered in Orland Park

The Village of Orland Park Recreation Department's fall itinerary includes three separate programs for residents of all ages to learn Spanish. Preschool Spanish is available for those nine months through six year. Youth Spanish is designed for those in first through fifth grades and Adult Spanish is tailored for those ages sixteen and older. All classes are held at the village's Cultural Center , 14760 Park Lane . A number of sessions are available with the first beginning September 11. For more information, visit the Franklin Loebe Recreation Center at 14650 South Ravinia or call 708/403-PARK.

Orland Park Sportsplex to Host Preschool Sports Programs

The Village of Orland Park Recreation Department is offering a number of preschool sports programs specially dsigned to introduce young participants to different sports games and programs. Among the fall offerings are Super Sport Preschool Games, Little Swingers Golf, Tiny Hawk Camp, Pip Squeak Soccer, Parent/Child Soccer, Pee Wee Floor Hockey, Mini Dribblers Basketball and Little Swingers T-Ball. The first session for some of the programs begins September 12.

Sessions and class days vary for the programs that are described in detail on page 29 of the department's fall program guide. Preschool sports programs may also be found in the recreation area of the village's website at www.orland-park.il.us. Registration is available at Orland Park's Franklin E. Loebe Recreation Center , 14650 South Ravinia Avenue or the Village Sportsplex, 11351 West 159th Street . For more information, call the Recreation Department at 708/403-7275.

Orland Park Offers Women's Volleyball and Men's Basketball

The Orland Park Recreation Department's Women's Volleyball League plays Monday evenings beginning September 14. Teams com-pete for prize money and positioning for a post season tournament. Games are played every 50 minutes beginning at 6:30 p.m. Each team is guaranteed ten games, all of which are held at the village's Sportsplex. Participants must register as a team of six players. The cost is $255 for a resident team and $355 for a non-resident team.

Adult Men's Basketball begins September 15 from 8:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at the village's Sportsplex. Men age eighteen and older play on Tuesdays while those age 35 and older play on Thursdays. Play full court pick up games between informal teams. Participants should bring their own basketballs and carry in their playing shoes. The registration cost is $61 for residents, $92 for non-residents and $56 for Sportsplex members.

Registration is available at the village's Sportsplex, 11351 West 159th Street or at the Franklin Loebe Recreation Center , 14650 South Ravinia Avenue .

Learn How to Use Your Digital Camera

Learn digital camera basics in the Orland Park Recreation Department's Digital Photography Program, offered for those ages sixteen and older. Understand pixels, memory, resolution, exposure and how to choose a camera. A second level of the program addresses color correction, brightness and contrast, editing and using a photo in Microsoft Word. All participants must bring a digital camera to the class, held Monday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the village's Cultural Center.

The Level I session is from September 14 to October 5 and Level II is offered November 9 through November 30. The cost for village residents is $45 and non-residents pay $68. Registration is available at the Orland Park Sportsplex, 11351 West 159th Street and at the Franklin Loebe Center, 14650 South Ravinia Ave.

For more information, call 708/645-PLAY.

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VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 17 September 1, 2009

Special Recreation Fall Registration

South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA) fall registration is currently taking place through September 11th. This fall, SWSRA is offering programs such as Special Olympics Basketball, Special Olympics Cheerleading, bowling, swimming, arts and crafts and many more! Fall trips and special events are also available for registration and include activities such as a Rock & Roll Sock Hop Dance, Feed the Hungry Dance, Candlelight Bowl Fundraiser and a trip to the Holiday Magical at Brookfield Zoo.

Make sure to grab a fall brochure at the SWSRA office, 12521 S. Kostner Ave. in Alsip, or any of SWSRA's member districts: Alsip, Blue Island , Justice, Merrionette Park , Midlothian, Palos Heights , Posen, Summit and Worth. A fall brochure may also be downloaded from SWSRA's website at www.swsra.com.

SWSRA is a non-profit organization located in Alsip that provides recreation services to individuals with special needs.

Please contact the SWSRA office at (708) 389-9423 if you would like to be added to the mailing list or if you have any questions.

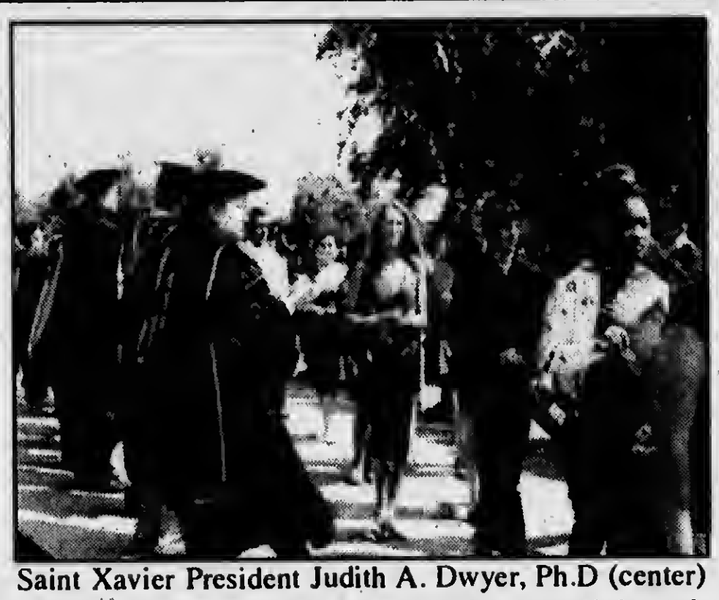
Swing'n Sugar Squares lessons and club dances

It's a party, it's a challenge, it's American Folk Art too. It's the new generation of Square Dancing. It's about people from all walks of life. Perhaps you remember square dancing from your school days, but how it's changed. This is not your father's dance routine. Learn to square dance and a new world of opportunities for fun and fellowship will open for you.

On Tuesday, September 22 and on Tuesday, September 30, Swing'n Sugar Squares begin a new year of dancing and you are invited to two FREE nights of square dance lessons at 7:30 P.M. at Central Junior High School, 95th and Spaulding in Evergreen Park. This event is for new dancers or as a "brush-up." Come with or without a partner. Light refreshments. Casual dress.

Thursday evenings Swing'n Sugar Squares Club dances, sponsored by the Evergreen Park Recreation Department, begin September 22 at 7:30 pm and are also held at Central Junior High School, 95th and Spaulding, Evergreen Park.

Square dancing is the official state dance of the State of Illinois and Swing'n Sugar Squares Square Dance Club is one of many in the Chicago area. Come and see how much fun it is to dance to the calls of the Silver Fox, Rick Allison, and to the round dance calls of Ron and June Ashenden, and other guest callers. For more information, call 708-458-1880 or 773-238-5496, or visit the website: squaredancechicago.com.



Saint Xavier President Judith A. Dwyer, Ph.D (center) looks on as the University's new students travel through campus

SXU welcomes new students with poignant annual induction ceremony

Saint Xavier University welcomed first-year, transfer and graduate students into the University community at the annual New Student Induction ceremony on Friday, Aug. 21 at the Chicago campus, 3700 W. 103rd St.

The procession traveled across campus and passed under the Saint Xavier's new 49th Street Gateway Arch, a replica of the one that welcomed people to the University's historic early 20th century campus at 49th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue . Students received University Seal medallions and University Prayer Books, followed with a reception.

The Chicago Community Trust Announcement

Metro Chicago Vital Signs reveal a significant drop in foreclosures around the region in the second quarter. That drop, attributed to thelllinois Homeowner Protection act signed into law in April 2009, may be short lived though as the data for July reveals a sharp increaseafter that 90-day period in which homeowners are allowed extra time to deal with possible foreclosure. Data show local unemploymentexceeding for the second month 10%, higher than the national average. Mass layoffs have significantly escalated in the past year, from7,000 in June of 2008 to 15,800 in June of 2009. Calls for homelessness prevention aid numbered more than 6,300 in July, whilehouseholds relying on food stamps climbed to over 466,000 in the Chicago metropolitan area.Metro Chicago Vital Signs is a monthly report from The Chicago Community Trust, our region's community foundation, that pulls togetherdata defining the human impact of the current economic crisis in six categories. For more information about the Trust and how it is responding to these Vital Signs, please visit www.cct.org. Metro Chicago Vital Signs is released on the third Monday of every month at www.cct.org

The Chicago Community Trust, metropolitan Chicago's community foundation, is tracking key indicators of unemployment, hunger and homelessness. The Trust's new monthly report *Metro Chicago Vital Signs* measures the human impact of the economic crisis, and the demands on the nonprofit sector providing critical safety net services.

Measurements include the following areas:

· Individuals served by food pantries in the Chicago area · Food stamp utilization by household in metropolitan Chicago · Foreclosures in metropolitan Chicago · Inquiries received by homelessness prevention hotline in Chicago · Mass layoffs in Illinois · Unemployment rate in metropolitan Chicago

Water's Edge Golf Club Announces Hiring of Experienced Food Service Professionals

Water's Edge Golf Club today announced the hiring of David Somerfield as kitchen manager and the promotion of Carolyn Orbon to dining room and outside service supervisor. Both positions will work together to expand the operations of The Edge Bar & Grill, located at 7205 W. 115th Street on Chicago 's south side.

As the newest member of the Water's Edge team, David Somerfield joins Water's Edge Golf Club from his recent proprietorship as chef at Bogart's Char House and Somerfield's Fresh Pasta and Seafood. Prior to those positions, David held the executive chef positions at Seven Bridges Golf Club and Ruffled Feathers Golf Club.

"The Edge Bar & Grill will see a tremendous boost with the cooking flare and management styles that David and Carolyn will bring to the table," said general manager Eric Aldrich.

Orbon, who joined the Water's Edge staff in August 2008, has proven to be a dedicated staffer to the facility and just recently obtained her culinary degree from Robert Morris College . She has gained significant experience by managing her own catering operation. In her new capacity, she will oversee all front-of-the-house and outside service staff including scheduling and training. She will also assist with managing all liquor inventories and controls as well as food & beverage promotions.

About The Edge Bar & Grill

The Edge is a full service restaurant and bar open to the public seven days per week. Located at Water's Edge Golf Club, The Edge offers breakfast, lunch and dinner menus as well as an extensive drink menu. Daily food and drink specials as well as specialty and themed nights can be found on the calendar of events. Please visit the website for more information. www.watersedgegolf.com.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

B-MAC EDITION

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 17

September 1, 2009

Blue Island's Farmers Market is still open

Stop by the Farmer's Market sponsored by Cook County School District #130 Tues. from 3:00 - 6:30pm Hart Park, 123rd Western. Booths include: Multiple fresh produce vendors including one organic sweet corn, zucchini, peppers, squash, herbs, onions, etc. Fresh tamales Labriola bread, homemade lemonade and cookies Watkins products Honey Whirligigs.

The purpose of the Farmers Market is to providc high quality produce to residents of Blue Island. This is especially important now that our local Jewel has closed.

Contact RaeAnn Zylman for more info email rzylman@district130.org

Save the Date; Mexican Independence Day Celebration Saturday, 9/12 At MetroSouth Park at the corner or York & Western between 5-9pm Food, dancers, music and more.

St. Benedict holds fest

St. Benedict Fest Saturday Mass at 4:00 and fest to follow. ATTENTION ALL ALUMNI St. Benedict School and Parish will have their first St. Benedict Fest on Saturday September 26th, 2009.

It will be from 5:00 pm until 11:00 pm. The fest will be held on York St. in Blue Island. There will be food, drink and live entertainment! Come join the fun!! For details contact Blue Island Chamber at 708-388-1000.

Civil War Roundtable for discussions and learning

Come join us at our Civil War Roundtable. This is the place to be to learn more about the Civil War and participate in the exciting discussions. For more information or booking inquiries please email awest@blueislandparks.org or call 708-385-3304. The Civil War Roundtable is on November 3, 2009, at 6pm at the Memorial Park. 12804 Highland Ave, Blue Island IL Featuring Noah Andre Trudeau

Architectural Walking Tour sponsored by The Blue Island Historical Society

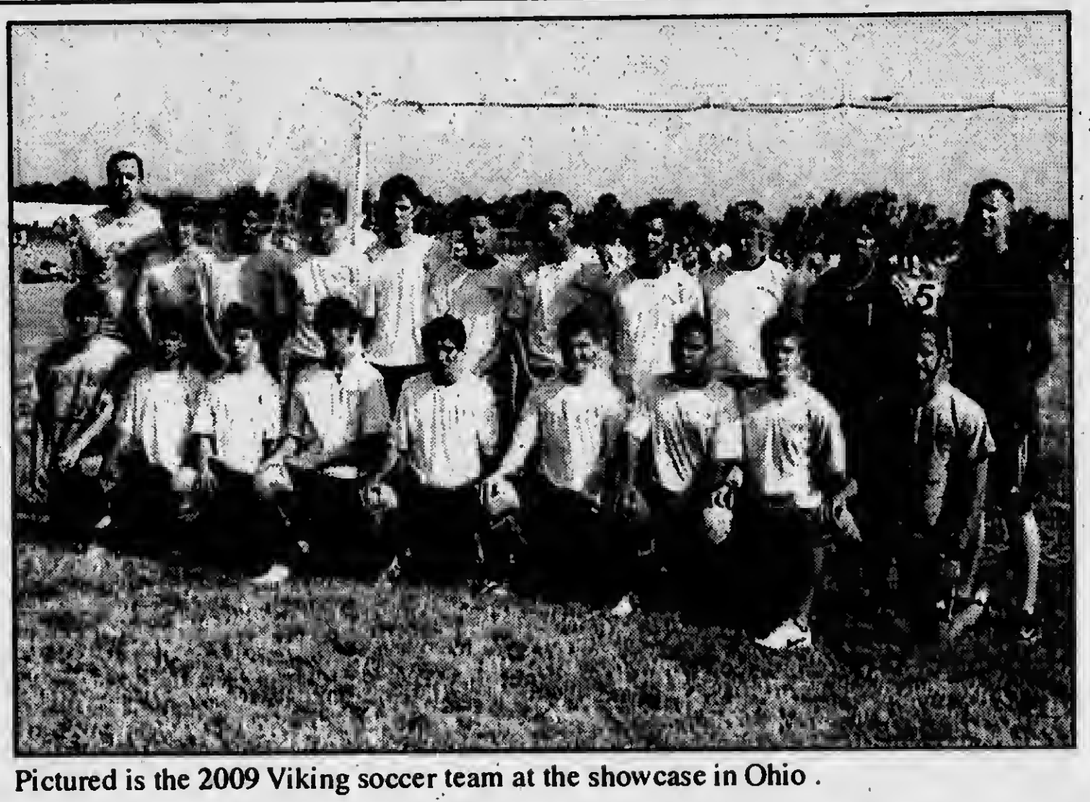
Architectural Walking Tour sponsored by The Blue Island Historical Society will have a walk on Sunday, September 20, 2009 at 1:00 PM UNTIL 3:30 PM. Tickets are $10.00 and will be available starting September 1st at CARR homegarden holiday, the Blue Island Public Library or RSVP the Blue Island Historical Society at 708.371.8546

Mexican Independence Day celebration

Mexican Independence Day Celebration Sat, September 12, 5pm – 9pm At MetroSouth Park at the corner of York & Western, in Blue Island, IL. Mexican Independence Day Celebration Food, dancers, music and much more for information contact the City of Blue Island at 708-597-1221.

Statement from Maude Hurd, ACORN National President on the passing of Senator Edward Kennedy

"ACORN members across America are deeply saddened by the passing of Senator Edward Kennedy. ACORN knew no truer friend in Congress than Senator Kennedy. Over the years we have worked side by side to better the lives of low-and moderate-income Americans. Teddy, as many of our members call him, was a frequent participant in various events where ACORN members would come from Massachusetts and beyond to make their voice heard in Washington . "The great influence Senator Kennedy has had on our lives and the way he changed the course of American history cannot be overstated. He was a true advocate for immigration reform, living wages, civil rights, labor, fair housing, and, of course, what he considered the 'cause of his life,' healthcare reform. At this critical juncture in our national journey we can learn from Senator Kennedy's example, from his passion and perseverance. The sadness we feel today is deep, and will not soon subside. But ACORN members take heart in the fact that we remain so deeply committed to those causes Senator Kennedy found so important. We vow to continue on in his name. As he said, 'the work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die.' "



Pictured is the 2009 Viking soccer team at the showcase in Ohio .

St. Laurence Soccer Team excels in Adidas National Showcase

The St. Laurence High School soccer team from Burbank competed last month in the Adidas National Showcase held in Strongsville , Ohio , outside of Cleveland . The Vikings had an impressive overall record of 5-2 against some of the best high schools in the Midwest . Sophomore Jason Buss led the defense to five shutouts, while sophomore Mark Madera (Chicago , Garfield Ridge) led team scoring with three goals.

Last season the Vikes were the Chicago Catholic League White Division champs. The team captains for the coming season are senior Mike Madera (Chicago , Garfield Ridge), junior Cody Goldman (Midlothian), and senior Hector Villazana (Chicago, Gage Park .)

"The showcase was an excellent opportunity for our squad to show off our abilities. I am proud of the boys – they did an outstanding job," said Head Coach Brian Kovacs. "I am really looking forward to the new season."

Sports Club for Boys Only

Kindergarten thru 2nd GradesGet in the games and join in on a variety of different types of sports and games. The basic rules of each sport will be covered. Teams will be organized as players arrive. A supervisor will organize the games.

No registration is necessary - pay at the doorTimes: 4:00 to 5:30 PM Days/Dates: Wednesday, September 16 Wednesday, October 14 Wednesday, November 11 Wednesday, December 2

For more information, contact the Crestwood Recreation & Wellness Center or call Joe Sadowski at 708-371-4810.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

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VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 36 Number 6 September 15, 2009

David "Sully" Irish Sullivan Memorial Sept. 26 3:00 pm at 3201 E. 91st Street.

Girls' basketball to host sully shuffle

The Girls' Basketball program will be hosting the Sully Shuffle on September 20, 2009. The Sully Shuffle is named after Skip Sullivan, retired OLCHS teacher/coach and current Assistant Girls Basketball coach.

Skip has been fighting Parkinson's disease for five years and recently sucumb to this horrific disease. His positivc attitude and eternal optimism inspired us to start this fundraiser. All proceeds from the event will be donated to the American Parkinson Disease Association Midwest Chapter in his name, to fund Parkinson's disease research.

The Sully Shuffle is a competitive 5K run or 1K walk in the neighborhood surrounding OLCHS. There is a mini shuffle on the track for children ages 2-10.

There will also be a post party at the Homestead from 1-4 p.m. All participants receive a Sully Shuffle t-shirt. Additional online information is www.sullyshuffle.org.

Village View Staff extends our deep sympathy to the family of Megan Hurckes!

Megan's recent accidental death was not an accident. God's plan for each of us on earth is not an accident. There is a reason which none of us including the minister of our faith can ever answer for us. Yet we as humans find it so difficult to understand. Love God, Love Jesus, Love whomever you believe in and know that HE will be with you to endure your agony during this trying times. Love you all, Annette Dixon

Evergreen Park to purchase Tactical Armored vehicle

The village board approved an ordinance at the Sept. 8 Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting amending a section and chapter regarding police personal to increase the number of police patrol officers. Police Chief Saunders said the ordinance declares two police department vacancies and allows the hiring of two additional officers. The section and chapter of the municipal code regarding police now reads as follows: The maximum number of full time sworn police officers is now established as: Chief of Police (1), Deputy Chief of Police (2), Licutenant 10, this number includes the Chief of Police, 2 Deputy Chiefs and 4 Captains. The ordinance calls for the number of police officers to be increased from 43 from 45. In the event that a person leaves the services of the police department or is promoted, a vacancy shall not exist in any rank, and no employee shall be hired or promoted, until the mayor and trustees authorize the vacancy to bc filled.

The board also approved a police department request from Police Chief Saunders to purchase a tactical armored vehicle for $150,000. The purchase will be paid from drug forfeiture monies -with authorization for the mayor to approve additional upgrades as deemed necessary.

A request to approve the annual dues for the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus for 2008-2009 was approved as well as request from Queen of Martyrs and a liquor license for their annual Martyr-Fest to be held on the parish grounds from September 25-27. The week of September 17-23 was proclaimed as Constitution Week.

A southsider fulfills his dream to become a director

Sean Kelly, born and raised in Chicago, Mount Greenwood area dedicated his life to the theatre since high school. Sean finished University of Illinois, Chicago in 2008 with a BA in Acting and receive a BA in Vocal Performance.

He launched The Artisan Theatre Project in 2008 to develop cross media work with dancers, painters, poets, musicians, sculptors, and actors. He had directing credit in college, also assisting directing credit. Sean worked under L. Walter Stearns, Porchlight. Sean has many other credits for directing such as Tempest and Superior Donuts at Steppenwolf, The Snow Queen at Victory Gardens.

Sean Kelly is now the Director of Porchlight's 15th Anniversary Play The Fantasticks, in which his mentor, William F. Raffeld, is playing Henry in the hilarious production of Fantasticks.

This production was directed by the master and the singing is outstanding. Get tickets by calling 773-327-5252 or email and pay online www.TicketMaster.com.

(L-R Front): Jerry Gresik (Summit Insurance & Chamber President), Senator Collins, Senator Maloncy, Tina Bibro (Bridgeview Bank Group & Chamber's 1st Vice President), Oussama Jammal (Fine Media Group, LLC & Chamber Director) and Senator Viverito. (Back Row): Congressman Lipinski and Mayor Landck.

Legislators at Bridgeview Chamber Luncheon

The Bridgeview Chamber of Commerce & Industry held a special "Legislative Luncheon" on Thursday, August 20th at Mama Luigi's Restaurant in Bridgeview. The legislative panel included Congressman Daniel Lipinski, Senators Jacqueline Collins, Edward Maloney and Louis Viverito. Opening remarks were made by the event sponsor, Paul LaSchiazza of AT&T and the Mayor of Bridgeview, Steven Landek. Amongst the many members of the Bridgeview Chamber were local business leaders and business owners of the arca as well as other dignitaries including the Village of Bridgeview Trustees, Mayor Krystof Wasowicz of Justice and Village of Justice Trustees, Mayor Eugene Sicgel of Chicago Ridge and Mayor Randy Keller of Worth. The Bridgeview Chamber extend thanks to all that attended.

The Orland Park Police Department Bicycle Patrol Unit will be one of the featured divisions when the department hosts its Citizens' Police Academy September 29 through December 1

Orland Park Police to Host Citizens' Academy

The Orland Park Police Department will again host its Citizens' Police Academy , offering an inside perspective into law enforcement in the Village of Orland Park .

"The village's Police Academy is a great way to learn about all that the Orland Park Police Department does within the community," said Trustee Brad O'Halloran, chair of the village's Public Safety Committee. "Adults who have an interest in law enforcement or those who simply want to know more about the department are invited to register," O'Halloran added.

The academy will be held on nine consecutive Tuesday evenings, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., September 29 through December 1, 2009. The academy, which is limited in size, is open to adults age eighteen and older. A criminal history review will be conducted on registrants prior to acceptance into the academy.

"We're very excited to again offer the academy," said Police Chief Tim McCarthy. "This is a great overview of the department with weekly focuses on our different divisions," the chief added.

The 2009 academy curriculum includes the functions of the department's Patrol and Investigations Divisions. Participants will meet officers serving in the Traffic Unit, DARE Program and schools.The department's K-9 unit will conduct a demonstration and students may participate in mock traffic stops along with other simulations.

There is no charge to participate and completed registration forms are due to the department by September 22, 2009. For more information, contact Officer Chuck Barth at 708/ 364-4736.

Debate over Health Care continues, as do concerns for the elderly

By Aoife McCarthy

As Washington is preparing for Congress to return to session, health care reform remains at the top of the Congressional agenda. However, the recess has done little to temper the fervor of the issue. A recent American Health Care Association poll shows that voters overwhelmingly oppose cutting Medicare payments to nursing homes as a means of financing healthcare reform. Below are additional findings from the poll, as well as some recent reactions to potential Medicare cuts.

Half of the poll participants (49%) identified cutting Medicare payments to nursing homes as unacceptable.

Young people (under 34) are particularly opposed to cutting Medicare payments (57% chose Medicare as least acceptable), as are those making $35 – $50 thousand a year (63%), college grads (58%) and those making $50 to 75 thousand a year (56%).

Finally, a large majority of voters would feel less favorable toward a Member of Congress who supported such an approach. The reason is straightforward—most Americans believe that cutting such payments will reduce the quality of care seniors receive in nursing homes.

Hometown-Murray VFW to host steak fry for Vets

Hometow-Murray VFW Post #9773 is having a Steak Fry, Saturday September 19th.from 4pm till 8pm. At 9092 Main St. Hometown, IL., The Steak Fry is $10.00 per person, includes a fresh, 'Butcher Cut' Steak, Baked Potato, Garden Salad, Corn on the Cob, Dessert Table.

Dine In or Carry Out-708-636-5446

Benefits our many *Veteran Can* community programs

Fall Membership Drive on now. Fighting for Veterans rights, and supporting the community.Call 708-422-9800 for more information.

SWSRA holds support group meetings and raises funds for the disabled

South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA), a non-profit organization that provides recreation services to individuals with special needs, offers a support group meeting with a new topic and speaker every 3rd Monday of the month. Meetings run from 7:00–8:30 PM and are held at the Apollo Recreation Center, 12521 S. Kostner Ave. in Alsip. The first support group meeting will be Monday, September 21. Speaker Donna J. McCauley, Moraine Valley Professor of Recreation Therapy, will discuss what your community college offers you and your family.

You won't want to miss this informational meeting. Snacks will be provided. The sign-up deadline is noon on Friday, September 18th. Please RSVP by contacting the SWSRA office at (708) 389-9423. If you would also like free childcare for your special needs child during the meeting, please inform the SWSRA office when you RSVP. If you work for an organization that would be interested in speaking at one of SWSRA's support group meetings, please contact the SWSRA office.

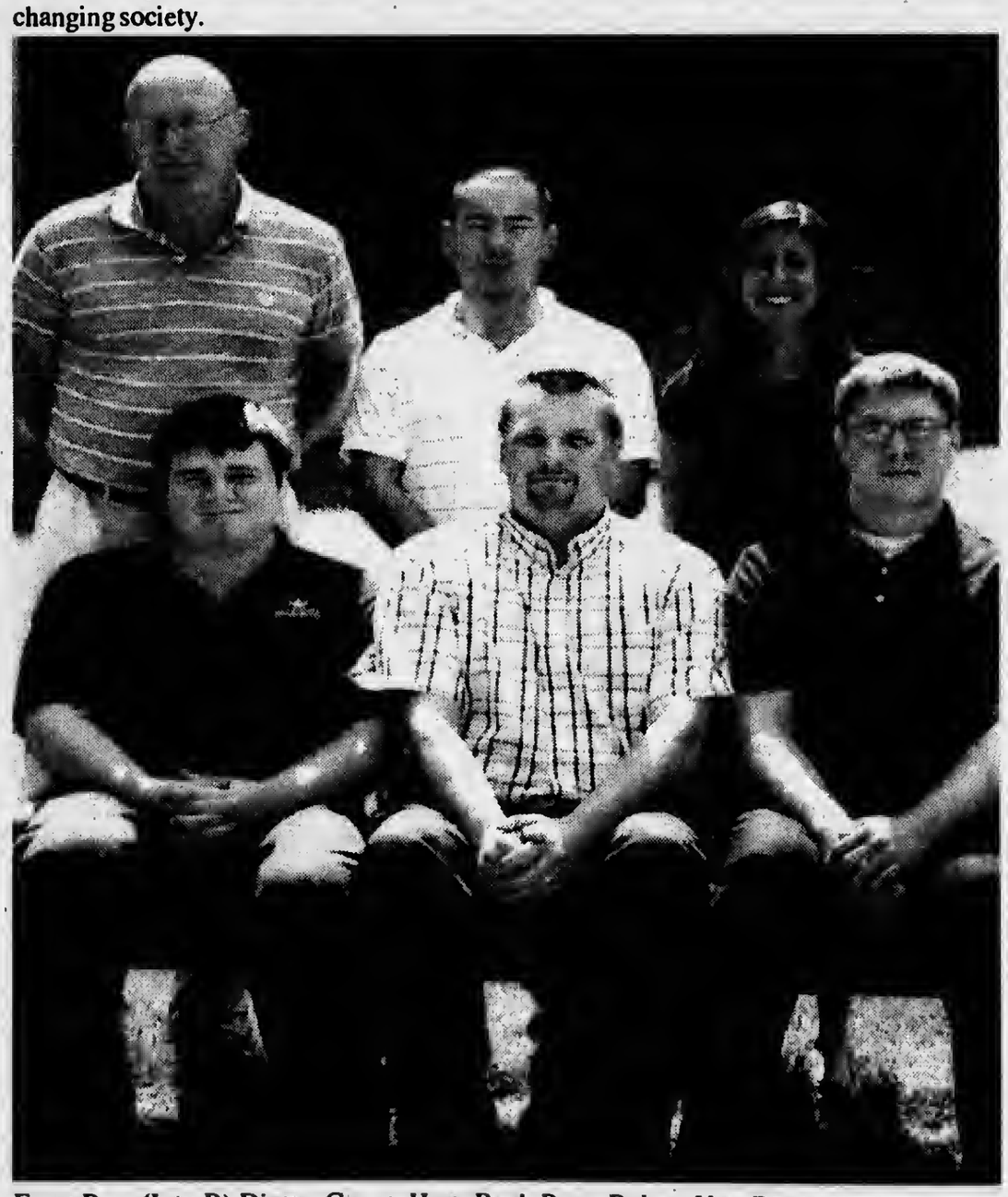
SWSRA is also raising funds to help provide recreation services for individuals with disabilities.The Entertainment 2010 books offer tremendous savings on everything you love to do including dining, movies, attractions, travel, shopping and more. Entertainment 2010 books are available now. Books are $20 each. Use it just a few times and it will pay for itself. If you would like to obtain an Entertainment Book 2010, stop by the SWSRA office or call (708) 389-9423 for more information. Books are also available at the Midlothian Park District and the Palos Heights Recreation Department.

De La Salle Welcomes New Faculty and Staff for 2009-10 School Year

De La Salle Institute proudly announces the addition of the following individuals to its faculty and staff for the 2009-10 school year.

De La Salle welcomes science teacher Ronal Cunat (Berwyn), religionteacher Michael Dieter (Brookfield), technology resources teacher Carl Jackson (Chatham), counselor MaryPayne (Lakeview) and science teacher Roger Yee (Wheaton). Jackson is a 2002 graduateof De La Salle.In addition, De La Salle welcomes student teachers David Bohac (Willow Springs) and Richard Hart (Clearing).De La Salle is excited about the outstanding quality of the new faculty members and wishes them every success.

De La Salle Institute is an independent Catholic secondary school rooted in the tradition of Christian Education begun by St. John Baptist de La Salle. Founded in 1889, its mission has been, and is, to foster a desire for excellence in education.Young people from a variety of ethnic and economic backgrounds are given the opportunity to fully develop their abilities so they may be active, contributing members of our complex changing society.



Front Row (L to R) Dieter, Cunat, Hart; Back Row, Bohac, Yee, Payne

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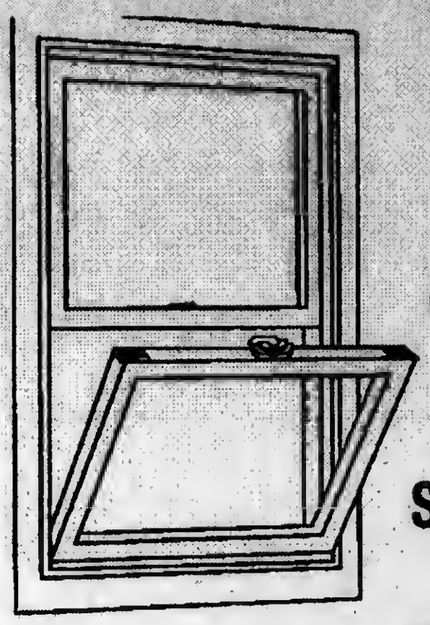

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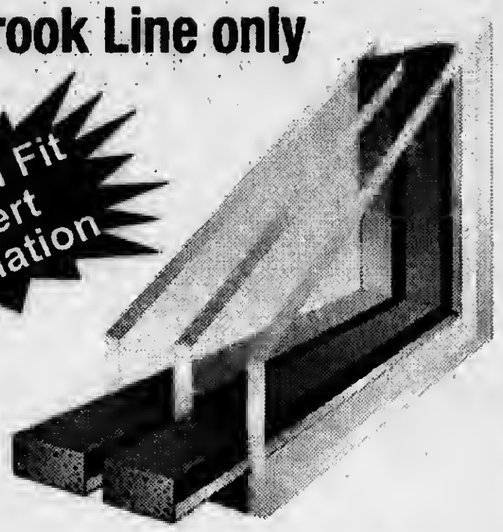

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Your Blissful Column

Topic of the Week: **Oily Skin is a Blessing**

by Sharon M. Vogel

Naturally oily skin indeed overall remains visibly more supple than drier skin over time due to the obvious conditioning and softening. Normal skin sometime mimics oilier skin when improper cleansing and lack of professional facials all allow the oil and debris to accumulate.

The following terms and explanations may be helpful. The oil and debris that improperly remains inside pores likes to harden and it becomes a 'plug'. Skin may even grow over this plug becoming a 'bump'. A 'blackhead' is grit stuck to the oil that has pooled inside of a pore. A 'whitehead' is an infected pore; bacteria was present. An 'open pore' is the evidence of skin being stretched out by all of the above terms, including oil, dead skin cells, makeup, as well as pore clogging cosmetics.

In short, most Oily skin I have encountered is happiest with a once a month Professional Facial. Your at home maintenance should most likely include a gentle cleanser that is clear in color, leaving the skin at about 5.5 pH. I Professionally recommend Arbonne Purifying Cleanser with built in toner. These Vegan Swiss skin care products may be purchased at Blissful Spa in Palos Heights and Downers Grove.

To receive your 50% OFF Facial coupon, contact us at www.myblissfulspa.com or 630-241-4100.

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Military News

After initial training, Nicholas Coluzzi was promoted to Private First Class and graduated from the Marine School of Infantry where he learned basic radio operations, advanced military weapons training, including training in hand to hand combat, and urban convoy operations.

He proceeded to his M.O.S.School in Virginia where he graduated as a Bulk Fuel specialist. Private 1st. class Coluzzi specializes in fuel disbursment, security and safety of various fuels, assembly and transport of fuel, this delivery of services includes trucks, cars helicopters and planes. This advanced service training will inable him to help meet the needs of his fellow marines. SEMPER FI

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church has a free reinforment program

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church is offering a six week program intended to reinforce Kindergarten Concepts and provide skills needed for a successful school exper-ience. Starting September 22, 1:00- 2:00 PM children age 4-6 years who are enrolled in the program will be treated to a story time with associated activities, organized games in the gym, and time set aside to strengthen basic Kinder-garten skills.

This program is free to the community but pre-registration is required. Class size is limited. For more information or to registration call 708-598-3100. Director for this program is Patt Pilgrim.

Old Forester sold bourbon for medicinal purposes

Chris Morris, master distiller of Old Forester first gave a history of Old Forester before introducing Old Forester's Birthday Bourbon. He stated that George Garvon Brown, born 1846, was a pharmacist and sold whiskey for medicinal purposes. Old Forester was named after William Forester in 1870, and later during prohibition, whiskey was sold as medicine.

George Garvin Brown, the founder of Louisville-based Brown-Forman and Old Forester, America's First Bottled Bourbon™. Launched seven years ago to commemorate Brown's Birthday on September 2, Old Forester Birthday Bourbon is a limited-edition, historically award-winning bourbon.

"This year's vintage release of Old Forester Birthday Bourbon is crafted from a 98 barrel batch," said Chris Morris, "These barrels were stored in the small warehouse B and larger warehouse J, on their 5th and 8th floors respectively. These upper floor locations exposed the barrels to a great degree of heat during the summer months which resulted in a rich, complex maturation profile."

Unlike the standard Old Forester, which is a blend of whisky from several different years, Birthday Bourbon is a vintage-dated bourbon, hand-selected by Morris from one specific day of production. The result is a one-of-a-kind character and flavor that will never be replicated again. Its unique decanter style glass bottle is a throwback to the late 1800's when Old Forester was first produced.

Old Forester Birthday Bourbon, a Brown-Forman product, has a suggested retail price of $39.99 and is sold at most liquor stores with a wide and varied range of bourbons. The 2009 edition of Birthday Bourbon is bottled at 97 proof, to correspond with the year it was distilled, 1997.

For more information on Old Forester and Old Forester Birthday Bourbon, visit the newly redesigned Old Forester webpage at www.oldforester.com.

Orland Township offers free immunizations

Each month Orland Township offers FREE immunizations to children, residing in Orland Hills, Orland Park, Tinley Park and unincorporated Orland Township , between the ages of two months through eighteen years of age. Every clinic is held at a different location in each Orland Township community. The next clinic date is Tuesday, September 8, 2009, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Orland Township Activity Center , 15100 S. 94th Avenue , Orland Park . Vaccines available at this clinic include all that are recommended for infants, as well as those that are required by the State of Illinois for school entrance. Also offered are the Meningitis and HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccines. All immunizations are administered by experienced registered nurses, and a physician is always in attendance at the clinic.There are NO INCOME GUIDELINES to qualify for free immunizations. A copy of the child's vaccine record is required and anyone receiving an immunization should eat before attending the clinic. For more information, or a list of upcoming clinics, please call Nancy Schoeneman at (708) 403-4222. Orland Township office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Weiss Memorial Hospital gives a tip to protect your hip

Hips protect our vital organs and give our legs the range of motion they need to take us from one to place to another. The hip joint is a prime candidate for arthritis, and muscles and tendons that support the hips can become inflamed from overuse.

Get support: If you walk with a limp, pick up a cane or crutches. Move the devices forward at the same time you step to share the weight with the injured hip.

Go polar: Ice is the first line of defense against hip pain. Lay a thin towel over your hip and apply a bag of crushed ice to the affected area for 15 minutes.

Take it easy: Avoid high-impact exercises. Be sure to get an adequate amount of rest, drive instead of walk.

Stay active: Don't give up on physical activity altogether. Try aquatic workouts, which take the weight off the hip. If the pain intensifies, see your doctor for other treatment options.

Orland Dental Care
14430 S. John Humphrey Drive • Orland Park
708.364.8900 • www.orlanddentalcare.com

$59.00 Complete Exam
Includes Exam, X-Ray & Cleaning
New Patients Only Restrictions Apply Not Valid with Any Other Offer

FREE *Invisalign*
Comprehensive Evaluation
Including X-rays and Study Models
($500 value)
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Excepting All Public Aid • Free Consultation • 100% Financing Available
Up to 36 Months • Ask for Details
Free Same-Day Emergency Consultation
Complete General Dental Care • Saturday & Evening Appointments Available
Digital X-ray Reduces Exposure up to 90%

Evergreen Park High School Homecoming Court

Evergreen Park Community High School announces the 2009/2010 Homecoming Court, left to right are Maryl Pinotti, Brooke Telander, Michelle Powers, Sarah Ryan, and Ceana Gates.

Residents of Evergreen Park receive fall winter books

Evergreen Park Recreation Department Fall/Winter books have been delivered to all residences . If you haven't received one, we have copies available at: Recreation Department office, Village Hall, Library, and also on line at: evergreenpark-ill.com.

2ND Annual
CAMF Community Health Fair

Saturday, September 26, 2009
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Morgan Park Church of God | 11153 S. Hoyne Ave.,Chicago IL
Dr. Carl E. Flewellen, Pastor
Free Screenings, Wellness Sessions, Health-Care info, Give Aways and more!
FREE ADMISSION FOR EVERYONE!
Sponsored by the
Chicagoland Area Ministers Fellowship [CAMF] of the Church of God
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708-895-6630 | camf_cog@yahoo.com | www.camf-cog.org

"Open House Time is Here". Attention High Schools, Colleges, Academy's, or Private Schools. Call Linda and advertise your Open House.
For details call 312-624-8996.

31st Orland Open Spelling Bee

The Village of Orland Park will again cosponsor the unique "OPEN" Spelling Bee for the 31st year on Sunday, October 18, 2009 at 2 p.m. at The Presbyterian Church in Orland Park, 13401 S. Wolf Road , Orland Park .

More than 100 contestants age 8 to over 80 will compete according to Mayor Dan McLaughlin. He noted that in the past two years, six former winners from six different towns have battled in the old fashioned Spelling Bee.

Of the 24 trophy and 24 ribbon winners in the 2007 and 2008 contests, more than half have been from Orland Park . Contestants can come from anywhere. In 2008, the top 15 spellers came from seven different towns.

This year, for the first time, spellers will have to be at least eight years old as of October 18th to compete. Age 8-10 begin at 2 p.m., followed by ages 11 and older and adults at 3 p.m. with former Trophy and Ribbon Winners entering at 3:45 p.m.

Pre-registration is encouraged. Please call (630) 257-0306 or (708) 802-9404 or (708) 448-8142. Have questions? Call Bill Smith at (708) 403-0804.

Dan McNicholas from Chicago is the returning two-time champion. First, Second and Third Place trophies will be awarded in four divisions; Age 8 to 10, Elementary 11-13,

High School and Overall. Additional 12 ribbons will be given to Age 8-10, 12 in the overall contest. Adults have won 27 of the 30 contests. There is no fee or cost.

Three judges will be Village of Orland Park Trustees . Six callers will be from The Presbyterian Church in Orland Park , the cosponsor of the event. Registrations will be accepted at the door according to Pastor Scott Estler. Creating the 700+ word list and conducting the contest are Amy Goebel and Margie Burnett.

Mt. Zion Church holds hold annual steak fry

The Mount Zion Lutheran Church Annual Steak Fry is scheduled for Saturday, September 26th, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. Mount Zion is located at 104th and Kostner, in Oak Lawn, IL.

A delicious steak, baked potato salad, rolls, dessert all for just $15.00 ! But don't wait ! The Kid's Meal; hot dog or hamburger with the extras is $3.00.

For tickets, please call Don Mehring at 708-422-7928. Don't miss this!

Book sale held at the Chicago Ridge library

The Friends of the Chicago Ridge Public Library will hold their annual Book Sale from September 18 - 20. Friday, September 18th, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., is a special free day for Friends of the Library members or a $5 admission fee for the general public. Saturday, September 19th, 9:00 a.m. – 1 p.m., is free admission to the public. Sunday, September 20th, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. is free admission to the public and includes a "$2 a Bag Sale".

Fill a bag with as many books as you can for only $2, we provide the bag. The library is located at 10400 South Oxford Avenue. For more information call 708-423-7753.

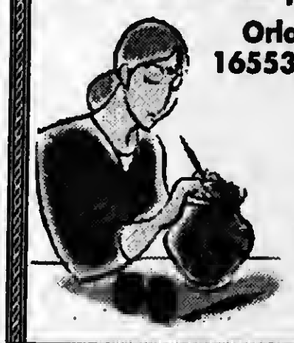
Big Run Wolf Ranch

Enjoy Family Day Open House on Saturday, September 19, 2009. Come see our new fox and lynx at 10:00 am until 4:00 pm The admission price is $3.00 and our special guests is Jim Nesci and his Cold Blooded Creatures at 12:00 pm, available for purchase, food, drinks, our gift shop, raffles, music and more!

Parking at Walmart 16241 Farrell Rd. SW Corner of Lot with non-stop shuttle bus service to the ranch. Big Run Wolf Ranch is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, federally licens-ed. Come see "Kuma" the bear, our ten wolves, cougar "Charlie", coyote "Mahala", lynx, skunk, groundhog, horses, and many other wild and domestic animals.

Come enjoy up close and personal wildlife lectures going on continuously throughout the day along with guided and unguided tours of our facility.

ORLAND HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER
3RD ANNUAL
CRAFT & PRODUCT FAIR
Lots of crafts and products to see! Plenty to buy!



Orland Hills Community Center
16553 S. Haven Ave. • Orland Hills
708-349-7211
Saturday & Sunday
October 3rd & 4th, 2009
10:00am - 3:00 pm
Raffle prizes throughout the day!
(1 FREE raffle ticket w/admission)
Admission price: $1 per Adult,
Children ore FREE

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window fashions
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Worth Township Seniors to host free Tai Chi class

Come join the Worth Township Seniors on Wednesday, September 30, 2009 at 11:30 am for a free Tai Chi class. It will be held at the Worth Township Building located at 11601 S. Pulaski Rd. Alsip. Please call (708) 371-2900 ext. 28 to register.

Tai Chi is an ancient Chinese exercise that uses slow movements. The beginning classes will teach you the stretches to limber your joints and muscles and you will also learn the proper movements to each exercise. These movements are used to develop balance and coordination, it can also help you to relax and let go of tension.

Come on in and enjoy, if you liked what the class offered please sign up, the classes will beheld on Wednesdays, beginning October 7, 2009 at 11:30 am for 8 weeks. The cost will be $25.00 for Worth Township Residents and $30.00 for Non-residents. A minimum of 10 participants will be needed to hold this class.

Acorn Public Library hosts Iran Travelogue Program

The Acorn Public Library will host the lecture Modern Iran, Ancient Persia given by world traveler Bill Helmuth on Saturday September 19 at 2 PM. Recent political violence and a burgeoning nuclear weapons program has ensured that Iran is constantly in headlines across the globe, but Mr. Helmuth's photographs and anecdotes will show a different side of this ancient and vibrant country. He will present the friendly people of the country's cities and also show some of greatest architecture anywhere. He will take you from the marvels of ancient Persia to the reality of living in a modern theocracy of 70 million people. Helmuth will also present another program at the library in October, this one entitled The Silk Road.

As director of sales for Time-Life Books (Asia), Bill Helmuth has traveled to over 100 countries, flown over 4,000,000 miles, and lived on 4 continents. The places he has made his home include Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia and the United Kingdom.

Acorn Public Library is located at 15624 S. Central Avenue in Oak Forest. Interested individuals are encouraged to call (708) 687-3700 or visit the library to register their attendance. This program is offered free to the public.

Orchid Show Displays Exotic Colors for Fall

The Illinois Orchid Society presents their annual fall show, in which individual orchids in 128 classes vie for red, white and blue ribbons. Twenty-five entries will receive "best of class" green ribbons and the best appointed plant in the show will receive the Chicago Horticultural Society Award from American Orchid Society judges. Exquisite tabletop displays, from the rarest of species to cultivated hybrids, will be artistically arranged in the Greenhouse Galleries. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, October 10 and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, October 11.

More than 20 orchid vendors will sell many orchid varieties. Supplies and equipment, books, pins, clothing and the society's custom bark mix and fertilizer will also be for sale. The Illinois Orchid Society will provide repotting services for $5.

The Illinois Orchid Society holds its meetings, which are open to the public, on the second Sunday of the month. Meeting dates are subject to change. For more information on plant society meetings, call (847) 835-8284. Visit www.chicagobotanic.org/plantshows/fall for more information.

Admission to the Chicago Botanic Garden is free; select event fees apply. Parking is $20; free for Garden members. For more information about any of the Chicago Botanic Garden's programs and events, call (847) 835-5440, or visit http://www.chicagobotanic.org/.

Attention all Craft Shows and Vendor Expo's, call and advertise your shows in our Crafter Corner. Your ad will be in 4 newspapers, in 17 towns plus. Call Linda at 312-624-8996

Midlothian PublicLibrary Monthly Events
September 2009

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, SiSAi music group will perform ancient Andean cultural music at Midlothian library Wednesday, September 30, at 6:45PM.

Midlothian Library will host a resume webinar September 30, from 12-1PM. Come receive resume help.

Visit our library website to get free online help from live tutorsthrough tutor.com.

Tutors assist with the following: homework help for grades K-12, intro to college, adult learners, job seekers & resume help, live homework help is available daily from 2-9PM. This is a free service for Midlothian library card holders and students.

Basic computer training will be available Saturday, September 19th at 9A. Guided practice will be held Saturday, September 26th at 9A. Please register in Advance.

Story Time is as follows: Toddler Story Time Tuesdays at 10AM.BabyTime Tuesdays at 11AM. Ages 4 and up Story Time and Drawing 6:45PM. After School Story Time 3:15PM

Book Discussion of keeping the moon, by Sarah Dessen, Tuesday September 22nd at 6:30PM.

St. Rita of Cascia High School Inducts 2009-2010 Student Government

During St. Rita of Cascia High School's opening Mass for the 2009-2010 academic year, the 2009-2010 Student Government was official inducted. Officers for the sophomore, junior, and senior classes were swornin by President Fr. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A. and Principal Mrs. SallyDeenihan. By pleading to serve as liaisons between the administration and the student body, these young men secured their roles as leaders at St.Rita.

The Student Government President is senior Mike Basic (St. Mary Star of the Sea), and the Vice President is senior Joe Campagna (St. Cajetan). The representatives for the senior class are Tom Kelly (St. Bernadette), Marty Kordas (St. Cajetan), Tim Ladd (St. Cajetan), and Tom Murphy (St. Cajetan). The representatives for the Junior Class are Liam Hopkins (St. Cajetan), Ryan McGowan (Most Holy Redeemer), Dan McGrath (St. Michael), and Aamir Walton (St. Sabina). The representatives for the sophomore class are Brendan Duffy (St. Alexander), John Johnson (St. Cajetan), Mike Murphy (Central Junior High), and Shakir Spells (St. Ethelreda). Representatives for the freshman class will be elected in October. The Student Government operates under the guidance of the Activities Team: Director of Activities/Theology Teacher and Senior Class Moderator Bro. Gary Hresil, O.S.A. '86, Director of Public Relations/Mathematics Teacher and Junior Class Moderator Mr. Josh Blaszak '02, Guidance Counselor/Theology Teacher and Sophomore Class Moderator Mr. Tony Miranda, Director of Campus Ministry and Freshman Class Moderator Mrs. Vicki Blaszak.

Along with providing input to the administration, the Student Government Officers demonstrates their leadership by planning and executing St. Rita community building and service events such as St. Rita's Annual Mustang Olympics, Thanksgiving Food Drive, and Blood Drive. This year's Student Government is already hard at work planning St. Rita's Homecoming Week 2009 activities that will culminate with a Homecoming Dance on Saturday, September 19th.

Each year, the Student Government also selects a theme for the academic year, and this year the chosen theme is Remembering Our Past, As We Work in the Present, To Build for the Future: The St. Rita Family, A Timeless Tradition."

Children's Wildlife Education

Our presentations are perfect for Scouts, School Assemblies, Field Trips, Libraries, Park Districts, Church Groups, and Home School Programs!

Family Day OPEN HOUSE: September 19th

Special Guests: Jim Nesci's Cold Blooded Creatures

October 17th Drumice Sled Haulers. Happy Howl-a-ween!

Now Offering A Birthday Party Package Like No Other!

Hotdogs, Chips, Drinks for all Children
(all paper products, ice & condiments included)

1 – 1 ½ hr. Wildlife Presentation
(Including wolf, coyote, skunk, cougar and bear)

Check our website for more information.

www.bigrunwolfranch.org

501(c)(3) non profit wildlife education facility.

14857 Farrell Road | Lockport, IL | 815.588.0044

Burbank Manor Presbyterian Church welcomes its new pastor

A welcoming party was planned by Sandy Andersen, Cheryl Rizzo, Charles Von Schlutter, Bette Joe Earley, Lou Szekeres, Richard Bidle, and Harry McIlvoy. Dr. Neff began his new ministry with the congregation on August 17. He is a native of Oklahoma, an Eagle Scout, and a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, cum laude. He attended seminary at Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Connecticut, where he was involved in urban ministry. He has served churches in DeKalb, Clarendon Hills, North Riverside and Downers Grove. From 1997-2007, he was the senior minister at Morgan Park Presbyterian Church for ten years.

Dr. Neff received a Doctor of Ministry degree in 1998 from Chicago Theological Seminary in Hyde Park. He has training in marital counseling and psychotherapy, with advanced studies in theology and spiritual direction. He also teaches as an adjunct professor in the religious studies department at St. Xavier University.

He leads workshops, retreats, and seminars on spiritual growth. His passion in ministry includes spiritual renewal, Bible Study, church growth, and creative ministries with children and youth. "I am excited to be at the church and look forward to working with a talented, dedicated group of church members and friends," Dr. Neff said.

Sister Mary Ventura from St. Bernadette School is teaching a special program

It isn't often the media hears of a special person dedicated beyond her years in teaching, to take classes in a special learning environment. Many years ago, Sister Mary Ventura heard about a company in Waco, Texas, learned more about them, had them visit with her. After signing with them to become a director, Sister holds a certified membership for Essential Learning Solutions Lab.

In the past years, Sister has received the Exemplary Lab Award by the Creative Education Institute of Waco, Texas. This award was given in recognition of diligence and dedication to students who struggle academically. It also recognizes schools whose students make over 2 years of progress in less than one year.

The St. Bernadette ELS program boasts an average of 2.5 years of progress that leads to greatly improved performance. Students range in age from 5 to 55 years old. To explain the ELS program, this is a computerized corrective therapy program designed to help students become independent learners. For more information, contact Sister Mary Ventura, Director at 708-857-2005 or call the school office at 708-422-6429.

Log Cabin Center has teen workshop

The Log Cabin Center for the Arts, 12700 Southwest Highway in Palos Park, will offer a teen jewelry workshop on Thursday, September 24, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Jewelry-maker Linda Hardy will help teens, in grades 7 – 12 to create individually-sized beaded ankle or wrist bracelets from a variety of autumn colored stones and silver fittings.

There is a class fee of $10 plus a $12 materials fee. Advance registration is required. For further information, call The Center at (708) 361-3650.

Autism Today & Tomorrow Expo

There will be speakers discussing various topics regarding a parent's and educator's perspective, various alternative resources. A full day will be spent in the new Moraine Valley Business and Conference Center , The cost to attend is $55. Any educator, clinical counselor of occupation therapist interest in CEUs or CPDUs may request them by completing the appropriate form and nominal processing fee.

Panel members include parents who will discuss options and choices; a financial specialist and educators and licensed clinical psychologist with specialties in autism disorders and the director of the University of Illinois at Chicago Autism Service Institute for Juvenile Research. Dr. Winnega also is a board member for the Autism Society of Illinois. The event is in recognition of National Autism Awareness Month.

To register for the event, call (708) 974-2110, using course code: EV4-100-104 and providing personal information and credit card www.morainevalley.edu/wdcs to register on-line.

For more information, call the college's Workforce Development and Community Services Department at (708) 974-5735 or visit www.morainevalley.edu/wdcs

We are qualified to offer continuing education for certain education and health professionals

Chicago Ridge Library presents a slide show about Daniel Burnham

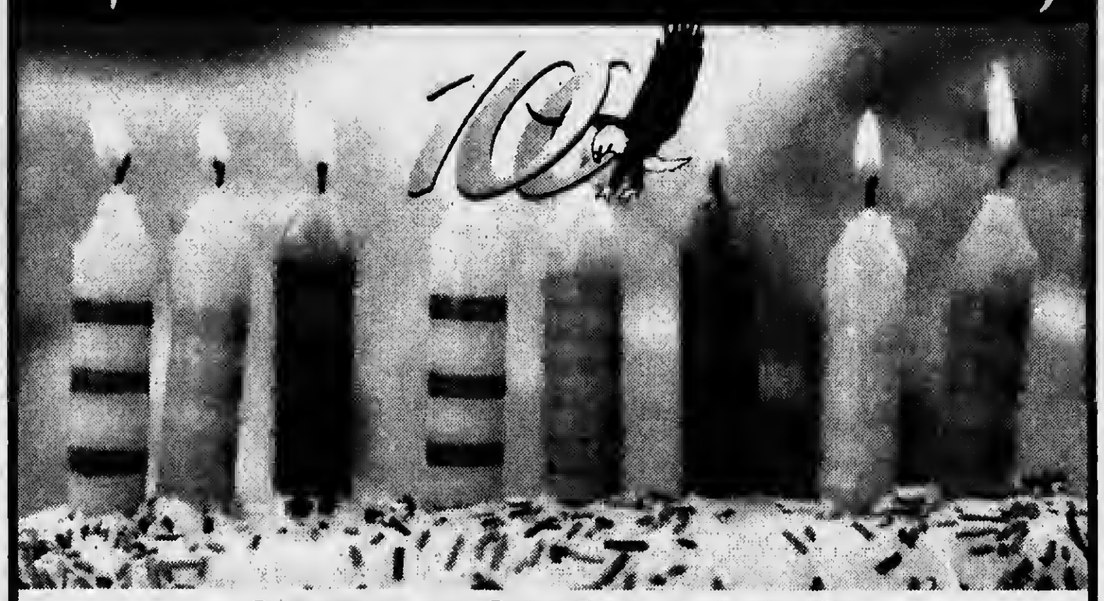
The Chicago Ridge Public Library, 10400 S. Oxford, is celebrating the 100th anniversary of architect Daniel Burnham's plan for Chicago with a series of lectures and special exhibits. Join us on Thursday, October 1st at 7:00 p.m. for Daniel Burnham: Make No Little Plans. Mr. R.J. Lindsey narrates a slide program detailing the Chicago Fire of 1872, the building of the 1892 Worlds' Columbian Exhibition, and the Chicago Plan of 1909 outlining the development of our city.

The famed architect discusses his innovative buildings and presents the Burnham Plan advocating sensible city growth. A selection of original 1892 World's Fair souvenirs will be displayed.

High School students and adults are invited to attend. If you have any questions, call the library at 423-7753.

WHITING ROBERTSDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PRESENTS:
OKTOBERFEST
Saturday, October 3rd, 2009
10:00am–4:00pm

119th Street in Whiting, Indiana
Art & Craft Fair, Food Vendors,
Largest Mobile Train Display,
Live Music, Beer Tasting (must be 21),
Pumpkin Patch, Fudge Making,
Face Painting & Hay Rides
For information call 888-659-0292
& for Beer Testing call 219-659-1466

Help Us Celebrate Our 100th Anniversary

OPEN HOUSE PARTY
Saturday, September 19th, 9:00am to Noon
11139 S. Harlem Ave. • Worth, IL
708-361-8000
WIN $1,909 CASH
Enter to win our 100th Anniversary Prize Drawings! The Grand Prize winner receives $1,909. Other Prize Drawings for Sentry Home Security Safes will be awarded to the First, Second and Third prize winners at the Open House Party.
OPEN HOUSE ENTERTAINMENT
A Dixieland Band will perform and Roger the Balloon Sculptor will entertain the kids during our Saturday Open House Party. Everyone's invited and there's no charge. Plus, enjoy FREE refreshments outdoors, including popcorn, cotton candy, snow cones and root beer!
- Enter to Win Grand Prize $1,909 Cash Register During Our Open House
- 1st, 2nd & 3rd Prizes
- Open a Bonus Rate CD
- Get a FREE Gift for Saving
- Receive a FREE Grocery Tote

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St. Benedict Fest
Saturday, September 26, 2009
All Are Welcome!
Alumni • Friends • Parishioners
Come and join the fun!
Food, Drinks, Children's Activities
and Live Entertainment
Spread the Word!
Mass 4pm ~ Fest 5pm-11pm
near St. Benedict Church
2339 York Street • Blue Island

Members of the class of 2010 walk in last year's Oak Lawn Community High School parade

Oak Lawn gets geared for Homecoming festivities

The Oak Lawn Community High School Student Council is currently making plans for the Homecoming celebration. The festivities are scheduled for the week of September 21, 2009. The week kicks-off with an All-School Pep Assembly on Tuesday, September 22, 2009, at 2:00 p.m.

The Annual Homecoming Parade, under the theme of "Spartans Around the World" will step off at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 24, 2009, at 95th Street and Raymond and proceed west on 95th Street to the Warren O. Kneipp Athletic Field, located just west of the high school. The evening will conclude with a pep-rally and fireworks show. The Homecoming King and Queen will be announced during the pep-rally.

Again this year, the Homecoming Parade is being planned in cooperation with the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce. The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce donates four cash prizes for the Best Float, Best Walking Float, Best Use of Theme, and Most Spirited Group. This year's Grand Marshal is Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee Al Sorenson, Class of 1987.

On Friday, October 25, 2009, the Oak Lawn Spartans will host the Argo Argonauts in a Varsity football game. The Oak Lawn Spartans, coached by Mr. Ron Thornburgh, will kick-off its game at 7:00 p.m.; while the sophomores, coached by Mr. Michael Sunquist, will get underway at 5:00 p.m. The half-time show will feature the Spartan Marching Band, the Spartan Dance Team, the presentation of the Homecoming Court, and this year's Homecoming Queen and King.

The Spartan Alumni and Friends Athletic Association are sponsoring an alumni hospitality tent at the north end of the football field and the students in Dramatics will provide food and beverages in the student cafeteria during the varsity football game. All OLCHS alumni are cordially invited to stop by for refreshments and visit with faculty and old friends.

The Homecoming Dance will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium Gym. Tickets for students are available from Student Council members.

All OLCHS students, parents, and alumni are cordially invited to participate in the Homecoming activities. Additional information is available on the school's website, www.olchs.org

Interactive videoconferencing now available at Queen of Peace

Consistent with Queen of Peace High School's commitment to seamless integration of advanced instructional methods and technologies, the school recently added interactive videoconferencing capabilities to their program.

"Videoconferencing in the Peace Media Center gives us the ability to offer courses and interact with other schools and teachers throughout the world," said President/Principal Dr. Kathleen Hanlon. "The possibilities for additional personal contact with people around the globe are now available to our students."

Presently, this opportunity is being made available to students of a Mandarin Chinese class. The course, which is being offered for the first time this fall, will immerse students in global collaboration.

"Mandarin Chinese is the fastest growing language in the world, and it certainly will give students an opportunity to understand more of the world and to be able to succeed within a global economy," Hanlon said. "It is rich in the opportunities and long-range implications that it's going to provide our students."

Course instructor Yanfei Hu, an MBA candidate at Dominican University , also will be teaching students from Maria High School , which has partnered with Peace for the yearlong course. Hu began learning English when she was 10-years-old, and became a certified tour guide in China through the Northwest University for Nationalities, where she earned a degree in Chinese Literature. Of the 5,000 people who took the six-hour test in 2007, only 10 became certified.

"In China it is required for students to learn English, and I hope more and more Americans will begin to learn Chinese," Hu said. "I am proud of my language and culture, and I am very excited to be able to teach Chinese in a high school in the United States ."

In a school year dedicated to the Dominican value of Community, Peace is looking forward to the opportunity to implement and participate in educational programs worldwide, as well as provide links with community organizations. It is Peace's hope to offer live presentations from colleges, museums and other global connections to area schools through their videoconferencing center.

Attention High Schools and Colleges, call to advertise your Open House. 312-624-8996

De La Salle Students Make Mission Donations

De La Salle Institute proudly announces that its students raised $23,480.47 during their weekly mission collection held during the 2008-09 school year. This marks the second consecutive school year and third overall that the students at De La Salle's Institute Campus for Young Men and Lourdes Hall Campus for Young Women have exceeded the $20,000 mark.

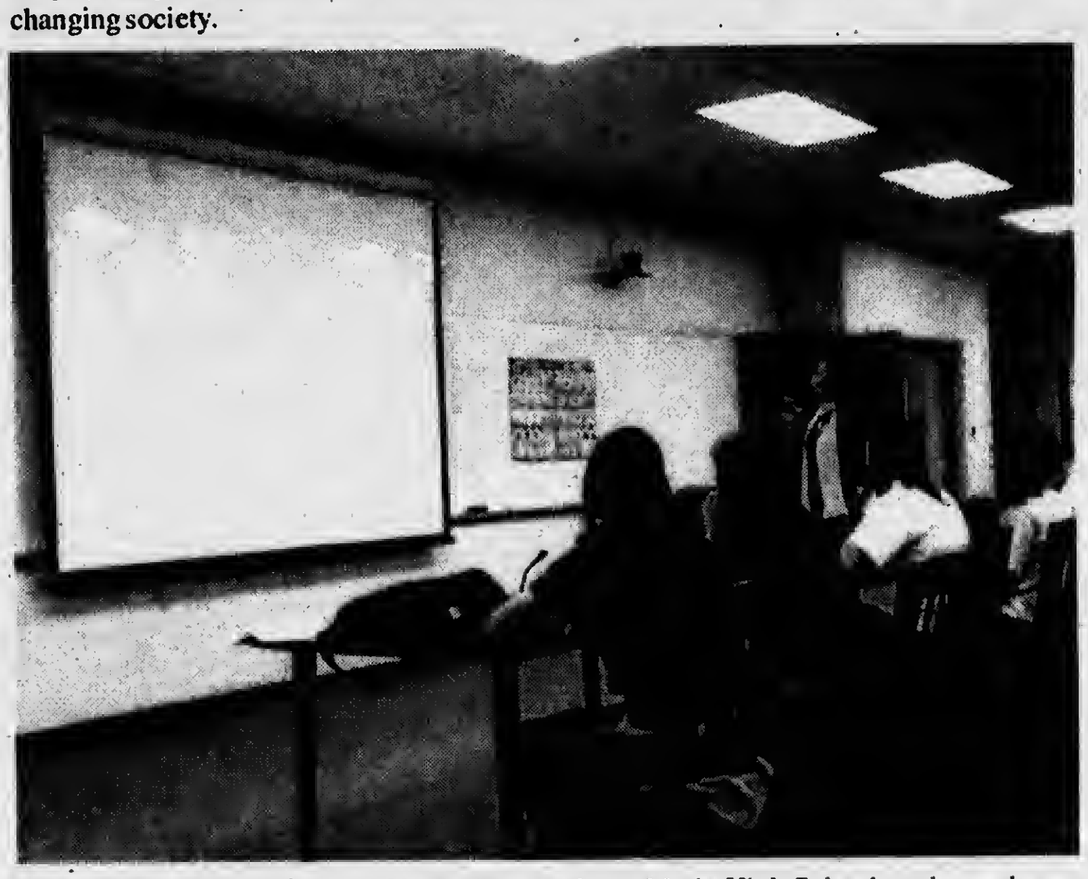
Since the 1985-86 school year, De La Salle students have raised $332,705 for a variety of causes through the weekly mission collection.

In 2008-09, there were 23 different entities receiving donations from De La Salle as a result of the mission collection. Among those recipients of the munificence of De La Salle's students were De La Salle High School in New Orleans, the Chinese-American Museum,the Franciscan Outreach Association, Operation Christmas Child, the National Honor Society toy drive, the St. Baldrick's Foundation, the Clear Drinking Water Project, the Columbian Missionary Fathers and the Lasallian Twinning Program.

De La Salle is twinned with the Lasallian St. Joseph School located in Keren, Eritrea in East Africa.

De La Salle thanks its students for their heartfelt display of generosity and concern for the wellbeing of others.

De La Salle Institute is an independent Catholic secondary school rooted in the tradition of Christian Education begun by St. John Baptist de La Salle. Founded in 1889, its mission has been, and is, to foster a desire for excellence in education.Young people from a variety of ethnic and economic backgrounds are given the opportunity to fully develop their abilities so they may be active, contributing members of our complex changing society.



Mandarin Chinese instructor Yanfei Hu speaks to Maria High School students via videoconferencing capabilities in the Peace Media Center

Orland Park Chamber to Host Legislative Lunch

The Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Legislative Lunch on Wednesday, September 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Silver Lake Country Club in Orland Park . WGN Radio's Andrea Darlas will moderate the luncheon and questions will be answered in a panel style format. Darlas anchors the Greg Jarrett show for WGN as well as reporting on a variety of topics including coverage of former Governor Rod Blagojevich, Former Governor George Ryan, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and other Illinois lawmakers. The panel will include representatives from the state, county and local levels of government.

The luncheon is being organized by the Orland Park Chamber's Legislative & Government Affairs Committee.The Committee's goal is to keep chamber membership informed of legislation and projects that will affect business in the local area. "All of our businesses, big and small, are impacted by what is decided by our elected officials," says Ken Sidlowski , Legislative Committee Chairman. "It's our committee's job to help members be aware of these decisions, both the ones that have been passed into law and those that are being proposed." The Chamber welcomes members and non-members to the luncheon. Please RSVP to the Chamber at 708-349-2972 oremail bonnie@orlandparkchamber.org by Monday, September 21st for this event. Tickets are $15 for members and $20 for non-members.

WGN Radio's Andrea Darlas

Cotton Patch Gospel returns

Provisoin Thearter Company announce return of the critcally acclamied production.

The theater will open their 2009-10 season with a bigger and bolder version of their 2004 hit production of Harry Chapin's *Cotton Patch Gospel*. The season will be the first produced in their brand new home, located at 1001 W. Roosevelt Road in Chicago . To celebrate the space, the theater company will host a gala reception, highlighted with a champagne toast, on Saturday, September 12; a date that also marks the official opening of the production which previews September 10 and runs through November 8. Lou Contey will direct the production.

In March 2004, Provision Theater Company produced a Jeff nominated, critically acclaimed productiond of the off-Broadway hit. The production played to packed houses and unanimous critical praise from the Chicagoland media. The production features the reverential retelling of the Gospels of Matthew and John in a contemporary southern setting, set to bluegrass music. The award winning musical is based on the book "The Cotton Patch Gospels of Matthew and John" by Clarence Jordan, a Bible scholar and Civil Rights activist. Tom Key and Russel Trevz adapted Jordan 's writings and worked with the late Harry Chapin to create this musical stage version.

The cast for Cotton Patch Gospel includes Tim Gregory, Christian David, Shaun Whitley, Dora Washington, Trey Maclin, Krystal Metcalfe, Farley Kelly Masterton, Whitney White and Alex Goodrich.

In addition to direction by Lou Contey, Musical Direction is by Alaric Jans. Set Design is by Courtney O'Neill, Lighting Design by Jordan Kardasz and Costume Design is by Isaac Turner. The Stage Manager is Donald Claxon.

The performance schedule is as follows: Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. ($28) and Sundays at 3 p.m. ($25). Select Wednesday and Thursday preview performances will be held at 8 p.m. ($22). Ticket prices include free parking. Groups of 10 or more are 10% off. For reservations, phone 866.811.4111. You may also visit www.provisiontheater.org.

Are you having a Open House? Contact Linda today at 312-624-8996 to advertise

Porchlight Music Theatre Celebrates 15 years

Porchlight Music Theatre will open its 15th Anniversary 2009–2010 season with the romantic comedy classic The Fantasticks at Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 West Belmont. The production begins previews September 11, opens September 13 at 2:30 p.m. and runs through November 15, 2009. Sean Kelly directs the musical, which has been a worldwide phenomenon for almost 50 years.

A timeless and universal fable, The Fantasticks is the quintessential celebration of love in all its gorgeous simplicity and heartbreaking complexity. Two scheming fathers attempt to spark a romance between their teenagers by faking a feud. The fathers enlist the aid of a mysterious stranger to add an unexpected tangle to their matchmaking web. The starry-eyed boy and girl next door fall in love, yearn for the dangerous attractions of the world outside, then opt instead for fulfillment in each other's arms and in hearth and home.

Thebewitching comedy is based on the tale Les Romanesques by Edmond Rostand and features music by Harvey Schmidt and a book and lyrics by Tom Jones. Its exhilarating score includes the classic songs "Try to Remember" and "Soon It's Gonna Rain."

Friends of the Calumet-Sag Trail seek to raise funds and improve the waterway

The 32-mile Calumet-Sag Trail takes another step toward completion Friday, October 2, 2009, as the non-profit Friends of the Calumet-Sag Trail host their first major benefit for the trail, the "Happy Trails Jamboree," from 6:30 – 11:00 p.m. at Lake Katherine Nature Center at 7402 W. Lake Katherine Dr. (Route 83) in Palos Heights.

This Wild West -themed evening features dancing to the music of Bernie Glim and The Country Roads Band, plus dinner and drinks, a bonfire, a cow milking contest and other games, plus live and silent auctions for fabulous items from across the Chicago metropolitan area, all to benefit the Calumet-Sag Trail. Tickets for the event are $40 until September 25, 2009, then $50; only 225 tickets are available, and no tickets will be sold at the door. The Friends are also raffling off a $1,000 Trek Soho bicycle at the Happy Trails Jamboree, with raffle tickets available for $5.00 apiece or three (3) tickets for $10.00. Event tickets and raffle tickets are available at the organization's website, www.calsagtrail.org.

"The Happy Trails Jamboree gives people a chance to hoop and holler for a cause ," said Jane Healy of Blue Island, Vice President of the Friends of the Calumet-Sag Trail, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit member organization. "The money we'll raise goes directly toward helping the Calumet-Sag Trail deliver on a Triple Bottom Line - wellness & recreation, economic opportunity, and sustainable transportation - for every community ."

Funds from the benefit will be used to match 20% of a $268,000 federal grant, secured by U.S. Senator Richard Durbin to develop a Master Corridor Plan for the Calumet-Sag Trail. "Every dollar we raise unlocks $4 in federal trail grants, and gets this trail open faster" said Healy.

The Friends of the Calumet-Sag Trail is a 501c3 non-profit organization working to raise funds for the planning and construction of the Calumet-Sag Trail, promote its Triple Bottom Line benefits for the Cal-Sag and Calumet River corridor, and to advocate for its completion to communities, business, and public officials and agencies.

More information about the Friends of the Calumet-Sag Trail and tickets for the October 2 "Happy Trails Jamboree" benefit is available on their website at www.calsagtrail.org, via e-mail request at friends@calsagtrail.org, or by calling 708-365-9365.

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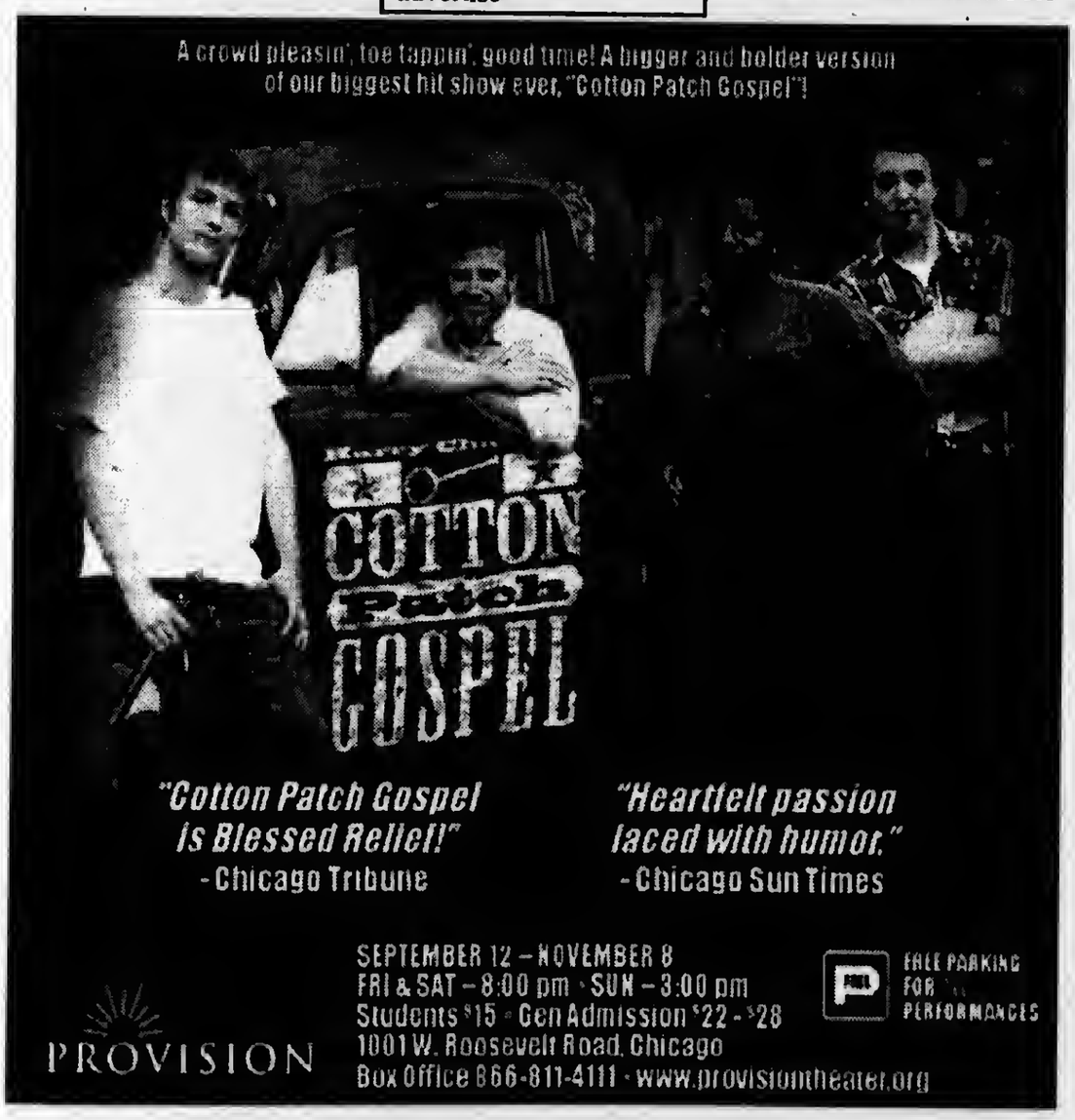

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Metra To Close 159th Street Crossing at 106th Avenue for Repairs

The 159th Street railroad crossing at 106th Avenue in Orland Park will close at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, September 25 and will re-open at 6:00 a.m. on Wednesday September 30.

The Metra owned crossing is slated for railroad repairs. Designated alternate routes include 153rd Street and 167th Street.

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Obituaries

Richard C. Trapp Sr, at the age of 66, lived and was born in Chicago, IL. Was a Supervisor for EPA.

Beloved husband of Linda nee Manarpaac; dear father of David, Edward [Denise] and the late Richard Jr.; loving grandpa of David, Nicholas, Eric, and Christian; fond brother of Joan Chumra, Rosemary Collins, Jacqueline Roberts, the late Carol Kovell, late Allen and late Robert Trapp; loving uncle of many nieces and nephews.

Memorial service was held at the Kosary Funeral Home in Evergreen Park, IL. For further details call 708-499-3223.

Roland A. Pliess at the age of 48, was a born and live in Chicago, IL as a telemarketer. Was a loving son of Adolf and the late Lydia, nee Bendilk; husband of the late Virginia; also survived by uncles, aunts, cousins and friends.

Funeral service was at the Kosary Funeral Home in Evergreen Park, IL. Interment Bethania Cemetery, 708-499-323.

Robert G. Bass, age 61, a residence of Oak Lawn, IL. Was a dairy truck driver for many years, employed by Bareman's Dairy.

Beloved husband of the late Laura; stepfather of Barbara, June and Lisa; dear son of the late William and Ethel; loving brother of Lucy Davison, Brenda Perry, Jesse [Sherry] and Jim Bass; proceeded in death by Edril " Ann" Strickling, Preston [late Wilma] Leon, Bill [Linda] and Joe Bass; fond uncle of Eric, VonKaenel and many more nieces and nephews who loved Bobby and will miss his sense of humor and good-natured personality.

Resting was at the Kosary Funeral Home, at 9837 South Kedzie Ave, Evergreen Park, IL. and Interment Chapel Hill Garden South Cemetery. For further details call 708-499-3223.

Mary J. Gustavson nee Manning, at the age of 81, was born and residence of Chicago, IL. Beloved wife of Andrew; dear mother of Mary Jane [Steve] Ryan and Kathleen [Dave] Ruggiero; loving grandmother of Claire, Rachel, Luke and Matthew; sister-in-law of Ilene and Alice; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives. Preceded in death by siblings Jim, Virginia, Tom and Neil Manning, Ruth [George] Dubanic and Marge [Richard] Martinek. Dear sister-in-law of the late Eric [the late Florence] Gustavson and the late Anne [the late Bernard] Hauser.

ervices was at the Kosary Funeral Home at 9837 South Kedzie Ave, in Evergreen Park, IL To St. Denis Church for Mass of Christian Burial. For further Details contact the Kosary Funeral Home at 708-499-3223.

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Far South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 18

September 15, 2009

The staff at the Village of Orland Park's Centennial Park Aquatic Center earned three perfect scores during the 2009 season, receiving national honors from the Starfish Aquatics Institute, one of the largest lifeguard, swim instructor and pool operator certifying agencies in the United States.

Centennial Park Aquatic Center received three Five Star Awards

The nearly 150 lifeguards at the Village of Orland Park Centennial Park Aquatic Center (CPAC) will forever remember the summer of 2009 as the "perfect summer." This year's staff earned three Five Star Awards, namely three perfect national audits, for its 2009 season.

The Starfish Aquatics Institute (SAI) awarded Orland Park 's village water park its third Five Star Award following a risk management audit on August 18. "Very few aquatic facilities qualify to receive this honor," said Leslie Donavan, president of SAI. "It represents a tremendous commitment to safety and training and exceptional performance by the lifeguard staff on duty at that time," shc notcd.

The Starfish Aquatics Institute's StarGuard Lifeguard Certification Program provides pool, water park, and restricted waterfront lifeguards skills exceeding nationally rccognized standards. Using an integrated curriculum of emergency skills, StarGuard lifeguards are trained to protect life or prevent further injury until emergency medical personnel arrive.

"Safety is everyone's number one objective at the Centennial Park Aquatic Center ," said Village Trustee Patricia Gira who chairs the village's Parks, Recreation and Environmental Initiatives Committee. "Having a national safety organization test and then honor our guards is a tribute to the hard work these kids do every summer," Gira said.

SAI is one of the largest lifeguard, swim instructor and pool operator certifying agencies in the United States . The institute offers state of the art training courses and provides risk management services for the aquatic industry. Orland Park 's honor was accepted by Facility Manager Kendra Will and Assistant Managers Erica Amoni and Will Seidelmann.

Swimming facilities are tested on a surprise basis with the auditor hiding outside of the facility, secretly video taping the lifeguards. While the guards supervise the pool from their chairs, the auditor evaluates and grades the guards' performances. The auditor studics how oftcn the guards' heads turn, scanning the pool from lcft, center and right, observes rotation changes and confirms that guards have hydration and shade. Once the hidden audit is completed, the auditor's presence is announced. The auditor then selects guards, team leaders and squad leaders to respond to mock emergency scenarios.

"The Centennial guards have received a well deserved achievement and it validates the hard work and dedication that goes into making the Centennial Park Aquatic Center such a wonderful family destina-tion," Flores added.

Centennial guards that contributed to the village's most recent award included Lauren Nicholson, Jessica Lahey, Kevin Seidelmann, Dan Carney, Kristen Miller, Matt Stumpf, Amanda Price, J.T. Lipke, Ryan McVickers, Jessica Slaviero, Squad Leader Kellee Vopelak and Amoni.

Recreation Department Facility Administrator Ray Piattoni is the full-time staff person who supervises the aquatic center. "The staff at Centennial was cxtremely excited to receive its third Five-Star Award of the summer" Piattoni said.

Noting the continued safety training offered for the village's lifeguards, Assistant Pool Manager Will Seidelmann added, "Guards go through an intensive training program in April and May to get thcir certifications and then train continuously every day before their shifts."

Kendra Will serves as the manager of the Centennial Park Aquatic Centcr. Will stated, "The guards comc to work with a serious attitude, knowing that peoplc's lives are in their hands. We are very fortunate to have the support of the village, its Police Department and the Orland Fire Protection District to help us continue our water safety education." Will added, "I am so proud of the hard work and dedication that the village's lifeguards have put forth to earn this national honor."

Thc village's Centennial Park Aquatic Center ended its eighteenth season on Labor Day, having debuted in 1992, during Orland Park's Centennial Celebration.

Tinley Park approves intergovernmental agreement

The village board at the Sept. 1 Tinley Park Board of Trustees meeting approved a resolution authorizing an intergovernmental agreement for the Metra pipelinc easement. This agreement between the village and Metra provides for a permanent utility easement across the Rock Island right-of-way at the proposed extension of 183rd Street.

In conjunction with the widening project, the village will require that an eighteen-inch storm sewer be installed underneath the railroad tracks. This utility easement is required to accommodate the storm sewer. The initial fee for the execution of the easement agreement is $1,500. In addition there will be a $3,000 annual lease (easement fee) associated with this agreement. This agreement is consistent with the standard language used by Metra throughout their system as well as with other easement agreements with the village.

Other highlights: the village board approved a public works request to set Sept. 30 at 10:00 a.m. as the date and time to receive bids for the following facility paving projects: resurface parking lot and widen the north driveway at Fire Station 4 - the widening of the driveway is needed to allow the maneuvering of fire apparatus; patch and crack seal the village parking lot behind Ed and Joes at 173rd Place and Oak Park Avenue. Robertson Engincering Ltd has inspectcd all three parking lots and recommended these repairs. A request from the Kiwanis Club to conduct their fundraiser, Peanut Days, on Sept. 25 and 26 was approved.

Health Services for Orland Township Residents

Orland Township Health Service offers free blood pressure evaluations, free blood sugar testing, as well as cholesterol screenings at the Orland Township Activity Center , 15100 S. 94th Ave. , Orland Park , on Wednesday, September 23, 2009 from 8:30 am to 10:30 am. There is a small charge of $5.00 for each basic cholestcrol screening (you must fast prior to taking this test). : We also offer blood pressure screening at:

Orland Township K-Mart Wal-Mart . 15100 S. 94th Ave. 16300 S. Harlem 159 th & 94th Ave. Orland Park Tinlcy Park Orland Hills September 18, 2009 September 16, 2009 September 30, 2009 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 am 9:30 am to 11:30 am 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

For more information contact Health Services at (708) 403-4222. Orland Township office hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday and 8:00 am to 6:00 pm on Tuesdays.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 18

September 15, 2009

Walmart Foundation Grant Helps Community Colleges Train Displaced Workers

Moraine Valley is one of eight community colleges in the nation selected to participate in the Walmart Brightcr Futures project.

This national demonstration project is dcsigned to assist community colleges in meeting the increasing need for training and services for dislocated workers. The Walmart Brighter Futures Project is funded through a $3.5 million grant from the Walmart Foundation to the League for Innovation in the Community College to work with a select group of eight community colleges to develop programs and services to put displaced workers back to work.

Thc rcsulting programs and services will then serve as a model for other community colleges facing the same need to incrcase their offerings as a result of the economic downturn.

In addition to Moraine Valley, other community colleges receiving funding are: Central Piedmont, Cuyahoga, Lane, Miami Dade, Seattlc , Sinclair, and St. Louis . In announcing the grants, League President and CEO Dr. Gerardo E. de los Santos expressed confidence that the Walmart Brighter Futurcs projcct will havc a profound and positive impact beyond the eight funded schools.

"This project will provide an opportunity for these community colleges to try new approaches that will expand the capacity of community colleges to serve the needs of displaced workers across the country," said de los Santos

Each selectcd community college will receive up to $336,500 to provide training and services for dislocated workers that will help put them back to work. The training will focus on jobs requiring 21st century skills in an effort to providc a promising career future for thc workers.

In addition to specific job training, displaced workers will receive career coun-seling and job acquisition skills such as job search, résumé writing, and inter-viewing techniques. Partici-pants also will receive funds for tuition, books and other expenses associated with continuing their education. Dr. Vernon O. Crawley, president of Moraine Valley , said, "We are excited to be selected to participate in this project. We appreciate thc generosity of the Walmart Foundation and the leadership of the League for Innovation in making this work possible. We look forward to working with our national partners and our local business and community partners to help make a difference across the country by putting people back to work and improving the condition of working familics in our commun-ities." "Now more than ever, we are looking for ways to providc opportun-ities for those who are out of work and facing tough times," said Margaret McKenna, president of the Walmart Foundation. Our recent grant to the Leaguc will support people across the country in thcir efforts to get through this difficult time as well as help assure that workers have the necessary skills for today's jobs."

Celebrate the opening of the Art Garden in Palos Heights

The City of Palos Heights is pleased and excited to announce the dedication and grand opening of the Art Garden of Palos Heights on Saturday, September 19, 2009 at 11:00 a.m., on 123 rd Street & 72nd Court.

Mayor Bob Straz and the Art Garden Committee hope you will come and see how and unsightly parcel of land has been transformed into a beau-tiful destination that will enhance the City's busi-ness district and delight all who visit or live in Palos Heights.

Join the Celebration and Experience the Beauty. Light refreshments will be served immediately following the ceremony. A local keyboardist will provide entertainment.

For more information or questions call Pat Sheppard at 708-480-3003.

If you have a business and would like to have more exposure, advertise in Village View and see the results. Call 312-624-8996

Palos Heights hires Economic Coordinator

Mayor Bob Straz announced at a recent Palos Heights City Council meeting that the city has hired Jim Furey as their economic coordinator at an annual salary of $49,000. Furey has been involvcd in writing the Palos Heights comprehensive plan and created a data base profiling all vacant properties in the city, which will now becomc an essential part his position. Furey's duties will include meeting with existing businesses within the city as well as recruiting new businesses for the city. Furey will also work closely with new development such as the CVS construction project and the North Point development at the north east corner of Route 83 and Harlem Avenue as well as the proposed Jcwel renovation.

Other highlights: The city council approved an ordinance amending the city's sign code to permit LED signs with the following restrictions: signs may display time, temperature, and alpha-numeric text, however text with réd rapid-fire flashing and scrolling text are prohibited. This ordinance was inspired by the construction of the CVS Pharmacy as well as an ordinance amending the National Fire Protection Association lifc safety code 101which requires all new commercial construction within the city to contain a complete fire sprinkling system

A request from Trinity Christian College to conduct a 5K Run/Walk in the Navajo Hills neighborhood on Saturday Oct. 3 from 10:00 to 11:00am was approved as well as a request from the Girl Scouts to solicit for their Fall product program during October and November 2009 and the Annual Cookie Sale Program from January to March 2010. The week of September 17-23 was proclaimcd Constitution Week.

Styrsky receives volunteer award for helping military families

Oak Forest, Illinois – On August 15, Oak Forest resident and Veterans' Commission Chairman JerryStyrsky received the United States Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne),or USACA-POC(A), Volunteer of the Year Award at its annual meeting in San Francisco, California.

Styrsky, a retired Army lieutcnant colonel, was nominated by thc Army's 308th Civil Affairs Brigadc inHomewood, Illinois for his work as thc group's family readiness leader a position hc has hcld for the past eight years.

"It was an honor to be nominatcd and an even bigger surprisc to win," Styrsky said. "I don't dothis for the praise. I do it for the love of soldiers and thcir families."

Currently, thc 308th Brigade has 26 soldiers from 17 statcs stationed overseas. As the family rcadiness leader, Styrsky helps the deployed soldiers' families become self sufficient by providing valuable information on topics such as financial planning, child care and support organizations. He alsocalls the families once a month to see how they are doing.

"The soldiers are like my children and grandchildren," Styrsky explained. "I worry about them while they are away. I want their familics to know that I am here to help in any way I can."

In addition to his rcsponsibilitics with thc 308th Brigade, Styrsky is an active member of Bremen VFW Post 2791 in Tinley Park, serving as the chairman of its Military Families Support Group. As the city's Veterans' Commission Chair, Styrsky helps to promote programs for local veterans, raise awareness of veterans' issues, and recognize the accomplishments of local veterans.

"Jerry is extremely devoted to veterans' issucs," said Oak Forcst Mayor Hank Kuspa. "We are vcry fortunatc to havc such a dedicated and compassionate residcnt lcading our Veterans' Commission.

Are you having a Halloween, Christmas Party or a New Years Eve Party call Linda at 312-624-8996.

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B-MAC EDITION

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VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 18

September 15, 2009

Health Insurance Coverage for Illinois Children Improves

Progress threatened by recession and by state fiscal crisis

Data released by the U.S. Census Bureau today show continued improvement in health insurance coverage for Illinois children, due largely to enrollment in the state's "All Kids" health insurance program, according to an analysis of the data by Voices for Illinois Children. The option of public health insurance for children has become even more critical during a deep recession, as unemployment increases and state revenues decline.

In 2007-2008, the state's uninsured rate for children was 6.5 percent, compared with 8.I percent in 2006-2007. The national average in 2007-2008 was 10.5 percent. In 2004-2005, the proportion of uninsured children in Illinois was 10.4 percent — about the same as the U.S. as a whole.

The latest data also show the continued long-term erosion of employment-based health insurance. In 2007-2008, 65 percent of Illinois children had employer-sponsored coverage, down from 66 percent in 2006-2007 and 71 percent in 1990-2000.

"This improvement in health insurance for children is good news. Still, too many families lack adequate health coverage or are at risk of losing coverage," said Kathy Ryg, president, Voices for Illinois Children. "Also, today's numbers don't reflect the full impact of the recession. We can expect that even more families will need public coverage over the next year."

The data were released today on the Census Bureau's website and represent the only data available on state-level health insurance trends over time. The state-level figures are two-year averages of survey data in order to improve the reliability of the estimates.

The encouraging trends in health insurance coverage for children reflect the impact of the state's "All Kids" program, which began in July 2006. All Kids, a state-funded expansion of Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), offers coverage for uninsured children regardless of family income, health status, or immigration status. Families are responsible for monthly premiums and co-payments on a sliding scale based on household income. For example, for a family of four at 250% of the federal poverty level, monthly premiums are $40 per child, while the maximum annual co-payment is $500 per child for hospital services.

In December 2008, about 70,000 children were enrolled in All Kids expansion. In addition, there is evidence that All Kids outreach efforts and a unified application process have had positive spillover effects on enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP. Between December 2005 and December 2008, participation of Illinois children in Medicaid increased by almost 250,000, while CHIP enrollment rose about 65,000. Since the implementation of All Kids, the total number of children covered under state programs has increased from 1.2 million to more than 1.5 million.

"These findings confirm that All Kids has been a success," said Ryg. "Sustaining this progress won't be easy, even though the cost of All Kids expansion is relatively small — it represents less than 1 percent of total medical assistance spending. Illinois still faces huge budget deficits, and our commitment to health coverage for children will be severely tested."

Blue Island Chamber announces fest and breakfast

St. Benedict Fest - Saturday Mass at 4:00 and fest to follow.

St. Benedict School and Parish will have their first St. Benedict Fest on Saturday September 26th, 2009. It will be from 5:00 pm until 11:00 pm. The fest will be held on York St. in Blue Island. There will be food, drink and live entertainment!

Breakfast With Legislators Sept.29 Business persons are invited to join the Beverly Area Planning Association (BAPA) and Blue Island, Evergreen Park, Oak Lawn Chambers of Commerce for the 4th annual Breakfast With Your Legislators on Tues., Sept. 29 at Saint Xavier University , Butler Reception Room, 3700 W. 103rd St., Chicago.

Registration and networking begin at 7:30 a.m. followed by breakfast and the program at 8 a.m. Legislators will meet and mingle with area business people and address the group on current legislative issues. The cost of the event, which includes full breakfast, is $20 per person for BAPA and Blue Island, Evergreen Park and Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce members, or $30 for non-members.

Advance registration and payment are required. For information or reservations call Marcia Walsh, 773-233-3100. Breakfast With Your Legislators is sponsored by AT&T and hosted by Saint Xavier University

Alsip has new police lieutenant

The village board at the Sept. 8 Alsip Board of Trustees meeting approved an ordinance amending the compensation and rate of pay for certain employees and appointed officials as well as an ordinance authorizing the disposal of personal property owned by the village. Jerald "Jay" Miller received the oath of office as Police Lieutenant and Kevin Picker was appointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Other highlights: The village board approved a police department request to hire four additional alternative community service officers. This is a general hiring agreement therefore there is no contract. The village will pay approximately $140.00 per physical, which is a requirement for all part time employees, and the applicant will pay approximately $250.00 for uniforms. The monies will be reimbursed upon completion of the probation period, which is 80 hours of work.

A request to waive the permit fees for the Park District for the demolition of a building at 3505 W. 123rd Street and the redevelopment of Sears Park was approved as well as a request from the Midwest Musky Club and the Village Sportsman Club to hold a fundraiser event on Sept.19 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Village Sportsman's Club, 5201 W. 115th Street. A request from the Chamber of Commerce to waive the fees for ground signs for their Annual Auction on October 6 and a Holiday Craft Fair on Oct. 2 . The auction will take place at Manheim Metro Chicago Auction at 121st and Central Avenue. The signs will be displayed from Sept. 29 to Oct. 6. A contract with Thomas Industrial Coatings, the sole bidder, was approved for $198,000 for sandblasting, priming and painting of an estimated 600 fire hydrants.

Baby Born on 9/09/09 at 9:09 a.m.Congratulations to Vilma Bonillas, a patient of obstetrician Dr. Mahmoud Holloway, who gave birth to 7lb 7oz Benjamin Valencia on September 9, 2009 (09/09/09) at 9:09 am at MetroSouth Medical Center's Family Birthing Place in Blue Island. According to numerologists, as the final numeral, the number nine holds special rank and is associated with forgiveness, compassion, and success. MetroSouth Medical Center

Editor's Note: The Village View Publisher, Annette Dixon would like to give Benjamin Valencia a $50 gift card to Target for his essential needs. We request the mother ,Vilma Bonillas contact us at 312-624-8996. This is in celebration of Benjamin's birth and Annette's birthday. We will be happy to know that the number nine holds special rank for us.

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VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 36 Number 7

October 6, 2009

Suburban Community events are scheduled

This event will occur on Thursday, October 8, 2009 from 4:30-7:30p.m. at Orland Park Civic Center, 14750 S. Ravinia Avenue, Orland Park. Join The Burbank Chamber of Commerce and over 10 local & regional Chambers working together to speed network! For more info, call 708/425-4668 and ask for Sandi .

The Ladies Guild of St. Albert the Great Parish 5555 West State Road, (80th & Central), Burbank will be serving Ribs & Chicken Dinners on Fridays & Saturdays, October 9, 10, 16 & 17 between 4:00-7:00 p.m. Reasonable prices for adults and children so call 708/423-0321 for more information.

Burbank Chamber of Commerce Board Elections and State of the City Luncheon with Mayor Harry Klein Thurs., October 22, at noon at Chuck's Southern Comforts Cafe 6501 West 79th Street, (New Location), Burbank Join the Chamber for an informative luncheon with our Mayor.

The cost will be $22/ person for lunch. Please call 708/425-4668 for more information.

Free Health Fair hosted by Bedford Park-Clearing Industrial Asso. October 27, 2009 at 2:0.0- 6:00p.m at. Bedford Park Community Center 6652 South 78th Avenue. Please call 708/496-0336.

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce to Sponsor 10th Annual Business Showcase

The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce will host the 10th Annual Business Showcase on Saturday, October 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Spartan Gym of the Oak Lawn Community High School . More than 40 businesses are expected to participate by showcasing their various products and services.

"The Chamber encourages area residents to 'Shop Oak Lawn First!' and the Business Showcase presents an ideal opportunity to meet with local business owners and learn more about their valuable offerings," says Glen Kato, Chamber President.

The Oak Lawn Chamber will use a portion of the proceeds from the Showcase to provide college scholarships to eligible Oak Lawn Community seniors.

The Business Showcase is held in conjunction with the Fall Arts and Crafts Fair, sponsored by the Parent-Teacher School Association.

For more information, or for an exhibitor application, please call the Chamber office at 708-424-8300 or email office@oaklawnchamber.com . Booth fees are $85.00 for Chamber members, $170.00 for non-members and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

Founded in 1946, today the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce consists of more than 300 members. The Chamber works to represent and advance the Oak Lawn business community, striving with constant integrity, fairness and cooperation to promote and improve the economic atmosphere, business climate and image of Oak Lawn .

Evergreen Park Youth Commission sponsors coat drive

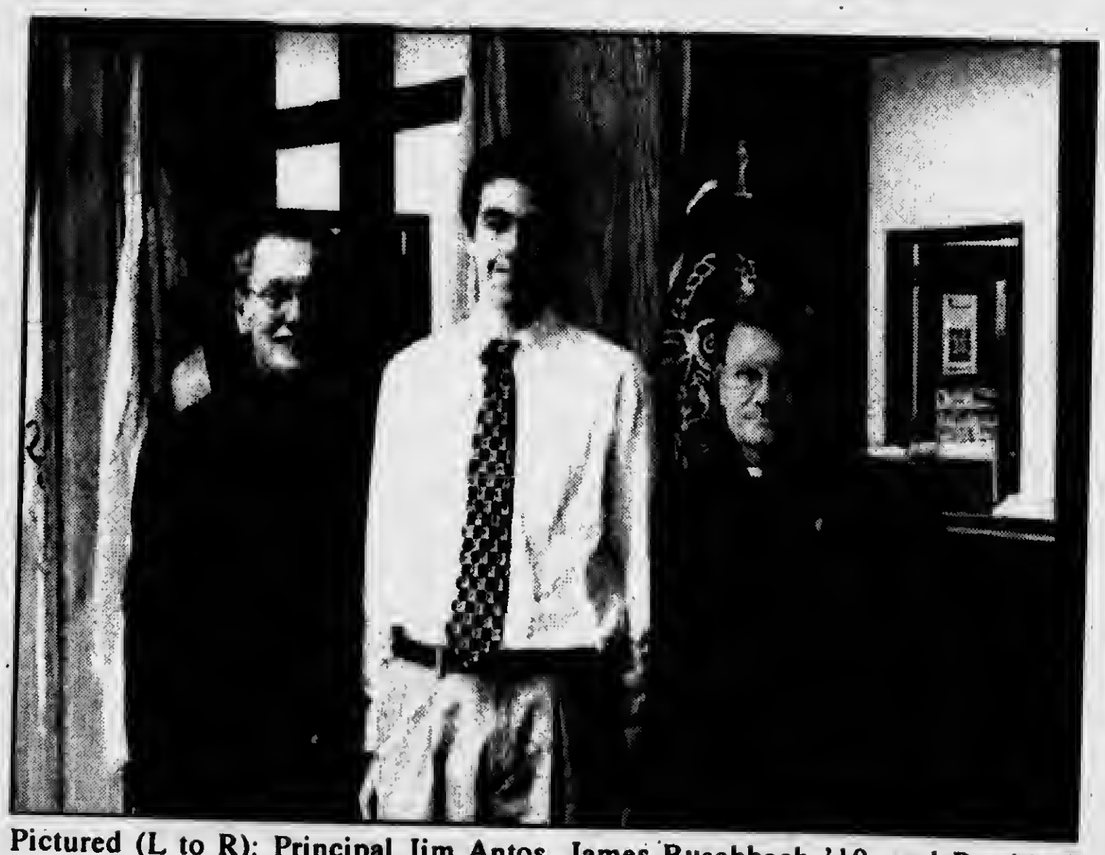
Evergreen Park Youth Commission issponsoring its Annual Coat Drive. Any new or used, clean coats (coats only please) can be dropped off at the Community Center 3450 W. 97th St Mon.-Fri. from 9-5pm. For more information call 229-3377.

Evergreen Park approves revenue bonds

A public hearing proceeded the Sept. 21 Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting pertaining to the following two ordinances: An ordinance amending a section of the village zoning code pertaining to the required front, rear and side yard encroachment for "A" single family residential district as well as an ordinance regarding a special use to allow the operation of an auto body / repair shop at 8843 S. Kedzie Avenue both ordinances were approved.

Other highlights: The village board approved an ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of series 2009 revenue bonds in an amount not to exceed $5,000.000.00 for Brother Rice High School. The ordinance authorizes the execution and delivery of a bond and loan agreement. The bonds will be issued and sold to Standard Bank and Trust Company and the proceeds will be loaned to Brother Rice High School for capital improvements with no debt or obligation to the village. An ordinance for the Immanuel subdivision of property at 9825 S. Campbell Avenue to allow the building of two new homes was also approved. A public hearing pertaining to these two requests was held prior to the meeting.

A request from Police Chief Saunders for Angelica Brakowski's participation in the village police department's college student internship program was approved as well as a request to sell four Ford Crown Victorias police cars. The month of October was proclaimed "Arts and Humanities Month".



Pictured (L to R): Principal Jim Antos, James Buschbach '10, and President Br. Karl Walcza

Brother Rice 's Buschbach 2010 earns National Merit semifinalist recognititon

Officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 55th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,200 National Merit Scholarships, worth more than $36 million, that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of thecompetition.

Finalist standing, and approximately half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit ScholarR title.

Brother Rice's James Buschbach '10 (Oak Lawn) earned National Merit Semifinalist recognition this year. James is a resident of Oak Lawn and a graduate of St. Germaine grammar school. During his time at Brother Rice, he has volunteered at the PADS Shelter and plays club volleyball. "The teachers at Brother Rice prepared me for learning today and beyond" Buschbach said. "School is geared for college prep and I am fully prepared to take the next step." After graduation, Buschbach is planning to attend Michigan or Purdue to pursue a degree in medical research.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2010 will be announced nation wide in four different news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 267,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

Medicare Scare-Mongering

The following article was published September 27, 2009 by the New York Times.

It has been frustrating to watch Republican leaders posture as the vigilant protectors of Medicare against health care reforms designed to make the system better and more equitable. This is the same party that in the past tried to pare back Medicare and has repeatedly denounced the kind of single-payer system that is at the heart of Medicare and its popularity.

For all of the cynicism and hypocrisy, it seems to be working. The Republicans have scared many older Americans into believing that their medical treatment will suffer under pending reform bills.

The general public believes that, too. The latest New York Times/CBS News poll of 1,042 adults found that only 15 percent believe changes under consideration would make the Medicare program better, while 30 percent think they would make it worse.

That does not mean that Medicare will be untouched under the Democrats' plans. The Obama administration and Congressional leaders are hoping to save hundreds of billions of dollars by slowing the growth of spending in the vast and inefficient Medicare system that serves 45 million older and disabled Americans. The savings would be used to help offset the costs of covering tens of millions of uninsured people.

But far from harming elderly Americans, the various reform bills now pending should actually make Medicare better for most beneficiaries — by enhancing their drug coverage, reducing the premiums they pay for drugs and medical care, eliminating co-payments for preventive services and helping keep Medicare solvent, among other benefits.

The main exception, a fully justified one, is that some of the 10 million people enrolled in private plans that participate in Medicare — the Medicare Advantage program — might suffer a dilution or elimination of the extra benefits they get that other beneficiaries do not.

To help them compete against the traditional Medicare fee-for-service program, Congress granted these plans large overpayments, essentially subsidies. Most are required to use part of the subsidy to reduce charges to their beneficiaries or to add extra benefits, such as vision and dental benefits, or even gym memberships.

This often makes them a better deal for beneficiaries. But it is unfair to force those enrolled in traditional Medicare to help foot the bill — currently $43 a year extra for each participant — to help subsidize the private plans. Federal taxpayers have contributed heavily as well.

These private plans didn't start out costing the government more. For most of the 1980s and 1990s, the assumption was that private health maintenance organizations could do a better job of coordinating care and saving money than the government. The private plans were paid 95 percent of what the same services would cost in traditional Medicare with an assumption that even that money would allow them to deliver extra benefits.

Then after budget cuts imposed in 1997 drove many private plans to drop out of the program, Congress steadily raised their payments. Today Medicare pays the private plans, on average, 14 percent more than the same services would cost in traditional Medicare.

The bill being considered by the Senate Finance Committee is projected to cut the subsidies to Medicare Advantage companies by more than $100 billion over 10 years. Although Republican rhetoric has triggered fears that Medicare Advantage enrollees might lose their coverage entirely if private plans drop out of the system, the real effect of the bill would likely be modest on average.

The value of an enrollee's added benefits would shrink by more than half from current levels but would not disappear; they would still be worth about $500 a year in 2019.

Douglas Elmendorf, the director of the Congressional Budget Office, told the committee that, under the bill as proposed by the committee chairman, he expected that almost all Medicare Advantage plans would continue to operate and almost all of their current enrollees would stay enrolled. Total enrollment in Medicare Advantage would creep up by 200,000 over the next decade — that is, about 2.7 million fewer new enrollees than expected under current trends, a real chance for savings.

What the Republicans aren't saying — and what the Democrats clearly aren't saying enough — is that in important ways, coverage for a vast majority of Medicare recipients, those in traditional Medicare, should actually improve under health care reform.

The House legislation, the only bills in near-final form, would reduce and ultimately eliminate a gap — the so-called doughnut hole — in Medicare drug coverage that currently forces more than three million beneficiaries to pay for drugs entirely out of their own pockets once they hit specified spending levels. That would also benefit many other beneficiaries who pay high premiums for coverage in the gap that they never end up using.

The House bills would also waive deductibles and co-insurance for preventive care that can head off serious illness, expand eligibility for programs that assist low-income beneficiaries and provide incentives for doctors and hospitals to coordinate care, improve quality, and lower costs. All that should benefit many if not most Medicare beneficiaries. And delivery system reforms should benefit the private plans as well.

Republican opponents have also been warning that planned cuts in payments to hospitals and other health care providers might make them less willing or able to serve Medicare patients. If true, that is a problem that Congress will have to address in the future.

We have long championed Medicare. And we believe elderly Americans, and all Americans, should closely examine the proposed health care reforms.

But the Republicans have done far too good a job at obscuring and twisting the facts and spreading unwarranted fear. It is time to call them to account. President Obama and the Democrats in Congress have to make the case forcefully that health care reform will overwhelmingly benefit Americans — including the millions of older Americans who participate in Medicare.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Health Fair to be held in Blue Island

The flu season is here, be informed, live right and stay healthy. Blue Island Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry is hosting a health fair Thursday, October 15 in the East Annex, 2434 Vermont Street. Flu shots will be made available.

Local soldiers graduate from elite military training

Christopher G. Ocasio graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash.

The 32 days of training provide the best possible professional training and evaluation for all cadets in the aspects of military life, administration and logistical support. Although continued military training and leadership development is included in the curriculum, the primary focus of the course is to develop and evaluate each cadet's officer potential as a leader by exercising the cadet's intelligence, common sense, ingenuity and physical stamina.

The cadet command assesses each cadet's performance and progress in officer traits, qualities and professionalism while attending the course. Cadets in their junior and senior year of college must complete the leadership development course. Upon successful completion of the course, the ROTC program, and graduation from college, cadets are commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army, National Guard, or Reserve.

Christopher graduated in 2005 from St. Ignatius College Preparatory School, Chicago, Ill., and received a bachelor's degree in 2009 from Tufts University, Medford, Mass. He is now a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge. He is the son of Robert Ocasio of S. Rutherford Ave., Burbank, Ill.

Army Reserve Pfc. Shonpierre Williams has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission and received instruction and training exercises in drill and ceremonies, Army history, core values and traditions, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, rifle marksmanship, weapons use, map reading and land navigation, foot marches, armed and unarmed combat, and field maneuvers and tactics.

Williams graduated in 1998 from Dwight D. Eisenhower High School, Blue Island, Ill., and in 2006 from Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills, Ill.

Air Force Airmen Maciej P. Weglowski and James M. Lawler graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airmen completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Both Weglowski and Lawler earned distinction as honors graduates.

Maciej is the son of Maria Weglowska of Mayfield Ave., Burbank, Ill. The airman is a 2009 graduate of Reavis High School, Burbank.

James is the son of James and Kathleen Lawler of Forest Lane, Hickory Hills, Ill. The airman is a 2008 graduate of Amos Alonzo Stagg High School, Palos Hills, Ill.

Airmen Maciej P. Weglowski and James M. Lawler

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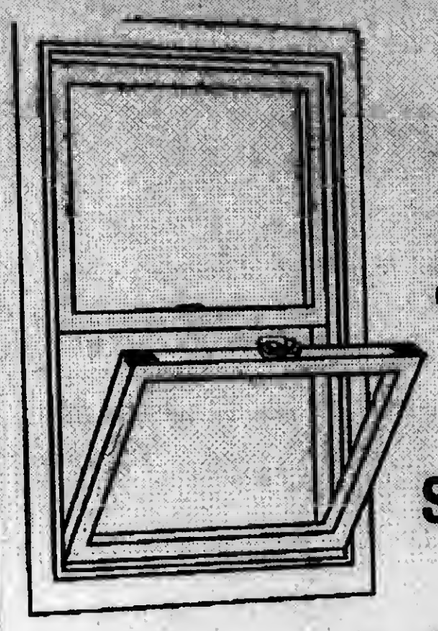

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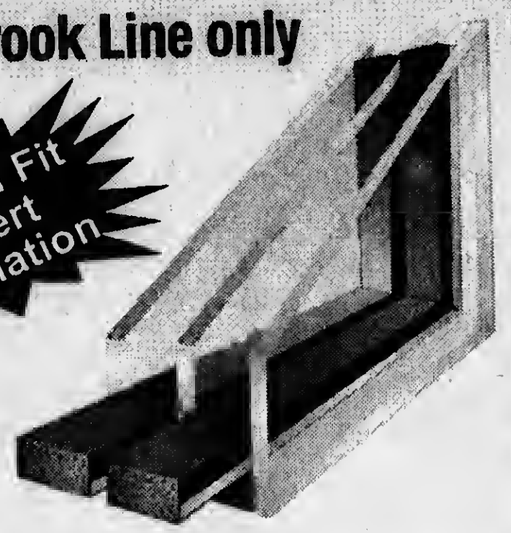

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Glorious Autumn is here and everything magically shifts. Your skin perhaps may change from its supple summer nature to a more normal feel, then winter may bring an imbalance.

Be kind and aware of the largest organ in your body, the things you do to it matters. Realize through analysis and professional consultation from a Licensed Esthetician or Dr. of Dermatology what type of skin you have and what it is experiencing at the moment.

To my combination skin clients: Exfoliate and Rebalance. Last column concentrated on Oily Skin. Today we will discuss Combination and Dry.

If your skin is Combination, then you probably must treat the Tzone, the forehead + nose + chin, as if it were oily by using Scrubs twice a week and Masques even daily until excess oil is absorbed. Your neck and cheeks are most likely dry and even sensitive. Dry Skin is usually lacking in its Acid Mantle, a mixture of sweat and oil. It doesn't sound too pretty, but it is a natural protective liquid. It is so important to spend the time lightly massaging the cleansers into the skin because these liquids all mix together and healthy skin emerges, with proper technique and products.

So, for your combination dry patches experiment your cleansing with lotion-soft liquids that rinse off leaving the skin moisturized and always enjoy a toner after the cleanser to regulate the pH of skin back to 5.5pH.

My professional recommendation for Combination Skin and Dry Skin is Arbonne RE9 Nutrimen C Set. It has Vitamin C exfoliation, is pH Correct, and revitalizes the skin to wellness. The set or facial Gift Certificates can be found online at www.worthywoman..myarbonne.com or at Blissful Spa 5002 Main Street, Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-241-4100.

Chamber member enjoys Business after hours event

Paul Novak enjoys the fare at the recent Business-After-Hours event hosted by Lexington Healthcare of Orland Park. Business-After-Hours events allow members to become acquainted with the products and services of fellow chamber members. For more information on becoming a chamber member visit the Chamber's website at www.orlandparkchamber.org or call the Chamber office at 708-349-2972.

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Your Smile Says It All

Joyce Macey distinquished local writer, columnist dies

Story about Joyce Macey as seen through the eyes of Annette Dixon.

In 1974, Joyce was a well known writer for Bruce Sagan's Southtown Economist. She was assigned to write about community women's groups, so when I met her it was at a fashion show and other events.

By 1993, she was retired and I needed help, so I called Joyce to see if she would work for me. Joyce's comment was, "I can't use my name, but I'll do a food column or recipe page under the name of Anita Anderson, my mother's maiden name." Fine I said, she told me that she didn't want to get paid, but to pay her with theatre comps or whatever concerts or show tickets I could get, that column and page lasted for 11 years.

When we first started working together at Village View, she reminded me that her father use to paste up a local paper at the kitchen table, just as I was doing. This was in the Northern part of Minnesota where she grew up. She was proud of being Finnish and reminded me that working in the cold was good for you. We laughed alot, told many stories and still remained good friends until her death.

Joyce consentrated on her grandchildren for the past five years. Between going to Florida to see her son, Darin's family or being with Mark's family for Sunday dinners and joining the Pilcher family with various activities and events, she always related how important her life was with them.

Three weeks before Joyce died, she left a message on my cell and home phone to call her. As always, I tried to reach her, but she didn't have voicemail. Don, Joyce's husband called me Saturday, September 19th, to tell me the sad news.

Joyce Macey left a long legacy behind her. She studied nursing, met a handsome young military man, married him. He was the love of her life. Don Macey and Joyce got married in 1950, later bought a home in South Holland, now Evergreen Park residents. When the three children were young, she started working part time for School District 218 in the business office. Joyce realized she had talent in reporting and writing and became employed for various newspapers including the Southtown Economist, later the Daily Southtown.

Joyce had mentioned that she had acting jobs in films with Robert Redford many years ago. She knew so many producers, actors, public relations personnel and celebrities. She was invited for opening night performances for years. Joyce enjoyed the invitations she received from Noreen Herron and whatever plays I could invite her to see. The last play we saw together was El Gringo of the Bronx at the Goodman Theatre.

She had a way about her that showed she was interested in people. She could open a conversation and in two minutes, would know more about that person than their own mother.

It wasn't until September 17, when she was in the emergency, and then intensive care, that the seriousness of an infection would have caused her demise. At her request and the request of the family, Joyce was cremated.

I will always remember her smile, her kind words, and concerned actions.

Village View Newspaper apologizes to Skip Sullivan and his family for all the problems they may have endured by a drastic mistake on Sept. 15 issue. An intern mistakenly placed the wrong caption and sentence in an article. Thank God Skip Sullivan is alive.

As I was told, there were numerous calls regarding the article. Not one call was made to Annette Dixon and there were no emails sent to Village View Newspaper regarding this error except from Janet Haubenreiser.

We didn't make up the mention of death, there was a news release regarding another person with the same name. The intern intertwined the two news releases.

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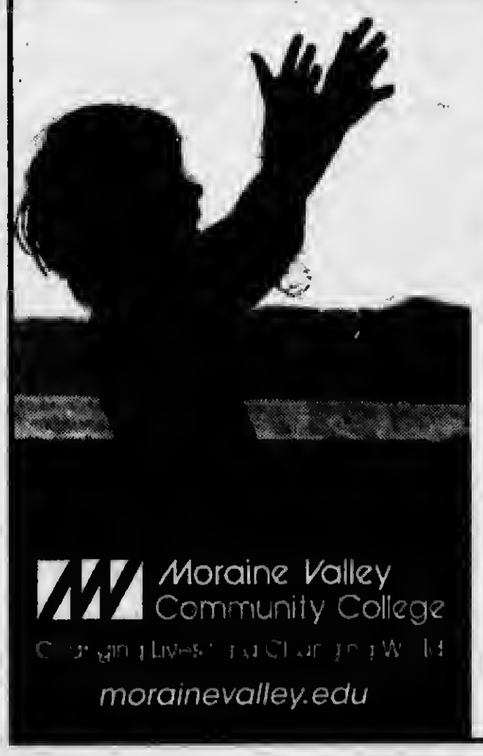

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For parents, education or health professionals, and clinicians who want to learn more about autism

Saturday, Oct. 24, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Moraine Valley Community College
Moraine Business and Conference Center
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9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills

Learn about nutrition, neurofeedback, identifying spectrum disorders, evidence-based practices, experiences of parents and educators, teaching strategies, and more.

Register: **(708) 974-2110** • Cost: $55
Course code: EV4-100-104

Approved by the Illinois Dept. of Financial and Professional Regulations for seven hours of CEUs and CPDUs.

For more info, call **(708) 974-5735.**

OAK LAWN SENIOR HAPPENINGS

On Friday, October 9th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Maxim Health Systems will be at the Oak Lawn Senior Center to immunize those needing flu or pneumonia shots. For residents over 65, they need only show their Medicare card to receive the shot. For those under 65, the cost is $30 for the flu shot and $45 for the pneumonia shot. Prior registration is required and can be done by call the Center at 708-499-0240 or by stopping at the Center, 5330 West 95 Street.

The Oak Lawn Senior Center, located at 5330 West 95 Street will hold a Rummage Sale on Friday, October 16th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, October 17th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Wednesday and Thursday prior to the sale will be drop off days for those wishing to donate items. Lunch will be available for nominal fee. Raffle tickets will also be sold and gift certificates to local businesses will be awarded.

On Monday, October 19th at 10 a.m.entertainer, multi-instrumental and showman Johnny Gray will share his talents. He is also known as the "finest one man show". After his performance refreshments will beserved.

On Thursday, October 29th a box lunch is planned. The success of the day is all thanks to businesses who offer to sponsor the program. The sponsor for this day is Ever Caring Home Health Care located at 4001West Devon Avenue in Chicago. They will discuss the benefits that many Medicare recipients are unaware of that are included in home health service. They will also discuss fall prevention. The presentationbegins at 10:30 followed by lunch and bingo. Seating is limited and the cost is $3.50.

For further details on any of the activities you may call 499-0240or stop by the Center, 5330 West 95 Street for a calendar of events.

This issues theatre picks
by Annette Dixon

Two different characters in one production, performed by one person. Dael Orlandersmith put on an excellent performance portraying various characters in **Stoop Stories** at the Goodman Theatre. Dael is a fantastic story teller and it was a pleasure hearing the stories. Stoop runs through October 11th and tickets are still available to Goodman Theatre.org or call 312-443-3800.

Mistakes Were Made by Craig Wright is currently playing at A Red Orchid Theatre, which is located at 1531 North Wells St. in Chicago. This is primarily a one person play. It was funny and the one hour forty five minutes,on act, went so fast I was hoping there was more to see. Michael Shannon, who plays Felix was on stage all the time and Mierka Girten plays Esther which we heard more of her than saw her. The plot, Felix is trying to tie loose ends together in order to get backing for a production. This is simply too hilarious to miss. The play was extended until October 25th. You can call 312-943-8722 or go to the web at www.aredorchidtheatre.org

A an old standard dramatic timeless production, Theatre at the Center in Munster, IN is proud to announce their **Man of LaMancha.** James Harms starring as Cervantes/Don Quixote did a superb job. David Perkovich as "Sancho Panza help make this play a must to see. Erika Mac as Aldonza/Dulcinea kept me at the edge of my seat. Kudos to Stacey Flaster as choreographer who out did herself once again. Of the many performances of Man of LaMancha, I enjoy this production the best. Call the box office at 219-836-3255 or Tickets.com at 800-511-1552. Man of LaMancha will be at the Theatre of the Center until October 11 at 1040 Ridge Road, Munster.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 2009
6PM-MIDNIGHT

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Palos Park resident wins first place in senior writing competition

Marie Busta of Palos Park was the first place winner in the Connecting the Generations Writing Challenge at the 14th Annual Senior Lifestyle Expo held this month at the Drury Lane Theater and Conference Center in Oakbrook Terrace. She was awarded the prize for her poem, "Counsel to Young Heart." The contest theme was "Wisdom in Aging, Sharing Your Journey," essentially giving one's advice to the next generation. The Senior Lifestyle Expo is a program of the Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging.

Mrs. Busta is a member of a local critique group of the International Women's Writing Guild, which meets every second Monday of the month at the Palos Park Public Library, 12330 Forest Glen Blvd. With the author's permission, Mrs. Busta's poem is reprinted to the right in its original structure as to not compromise the poet's creation.

Counsel To Young Heart
by Marie Coligon Busta

Bright core, joyous, how you leap
A free thing, a sun-lit fountain
With all mirth collected
Self-reflected in your moment
I hail your dance, your triumph
You delight me
But heed: each to his season
Pause: to meet with reason
Nourish each prism spark you hold
Cherish tender rhythm as it flows
Intoxicating, chamber to heart chamber
Caution I declare and humility
Be aware, steadfast and preserve, for coming
Is the time when you will strive to fan an ember.

Casino Nights, Bingo, Food Festivals, Craft Shows, Expo's, call for details on advertising at $15 and up. Ask for Linda 312-624-8996.

Babysitting safety education classes in Oak Lawn

The Oak Lawn Fire Department will once again conduct a free 6-week Babysitting Safety Education class on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 pm beginning Wednesday, October 21st through November 25th, 2009.

Classes will be held at the Oak Lawn First Church of the Nazarene, located at 91st & Ridgeland (enter thru south doors by the playground). Topics covered will include both infant and adult CPR, the care and feeding of infants and children, as well as how to entertain the children and handle emergency situations while sitting.

Participants should be 12 years of age and must register for this class by calling the Fire Department office at 708-499-7700, Monday – Friday, 8:30am to 4:30 pm. Registrations will be taken until 4:00 pm on Monday, October 19, 2009.

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Call for FREE In-Home Consultation
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St. Rita of Cascia High School Crowns 2009 Homecoming Queen

As part of its 2009 Homecoming festivities, St. Rita of Cascia High School crowned this year's Homecoming Queen. The 2009 St. Rita Homecoming Queen and her court were announced during a presentation ceremony held prior to the Mustangs victory over the Friars of Fenwick High School on Friday, September 18, 2009. Melissa Smialek was crowned this year's queen.

Smialek, a senior from Queen of Peace High School, was nominated by St. Rita senior Mike Basic (St. Mary Star of the Sea). Smialek, a Varsity St. Rita Cheerleader, is also the sister of Andy '08.

The following young ladies accompanied Smialek as part of the 2009 Homecoming Court : Megan Johnson, a junior from Mother McAuley High School, who was nominated by senior Joe Campagna (St. Cajetan); Jamie Gronkowski, a senior from McAuley, who was nominated by Kevin Yerkes (Lenart); Caitlin Krotty, a senior from McAuley, who was nominated by senior Tom Murphy (St. Cajetan); and Raquel Pappas, a senior from McAuley, who was nominated by senior Matt McGowan (Most Holy Redeemer).

Filling in at the presentation ceremony for varsity Mustang football players Campagna, Yerkes, and McGowan were: senior Marty Kordas (St. Cajetan), Jamie Viramontes (Queen of the Universe), and senior Henry Capouch (Irving).

Mt Carmel senior starring in school's play

Mount Carmel High School senior Michael Rodriguez stepped into the spotlight this summer as a student in Northwestern University's National High School Institute Theater Program. Rodriguez is a key member of the Caravan Alley Players, Mount Carmel's Drama Program, and is starring in the school's upcoming performance of One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.

MOUNT CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL

STEP-UP DAYS
Monday, October 12, 2009
Friday, October 16, 2009
Wednesday, November 11, 2009
Please register in advance for Step-Up Days. Students may also attend a Shadow Day any day Mount Carmel is in session.

OPEN HOUSES
Sunday, November 15, 2009, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 3, 2009, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

HONORS OPEN HOUSE
Tuesday, November 24, 2009, 6:00 p.m.
Please RSVP to Mr. Nolan by November 23, 2009

ENTRANCE EXAM
Saturday, January 9, 2010, 8:00 a.m.

To RSVP to an event or schedule a Shadow Day, please contact:
Mr. Bill Nolan, Director of Enrollment & Admissions
773.324.1020 ext. 265 • bnolan@mchs.org

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HOMECOMING
Friday, October 9, 2009
v. Bishop McNamara
7:30 p.m.

VIKING VISIT DAY
Monday, October 12, 2009

To schedule a visit contact the Admissions Office at 708-458-6900 ext. 252 or ext 237

OPEN HOUSE I
Thursday, November 5, 2009 ~ 6-8p.m.

OPEN HOUSE II
Thursday, December 3, 2009 ~ 6-8p.m.

ENTRANCE EXAM
Saturday, January 9, 2010 ~ 8a.m.

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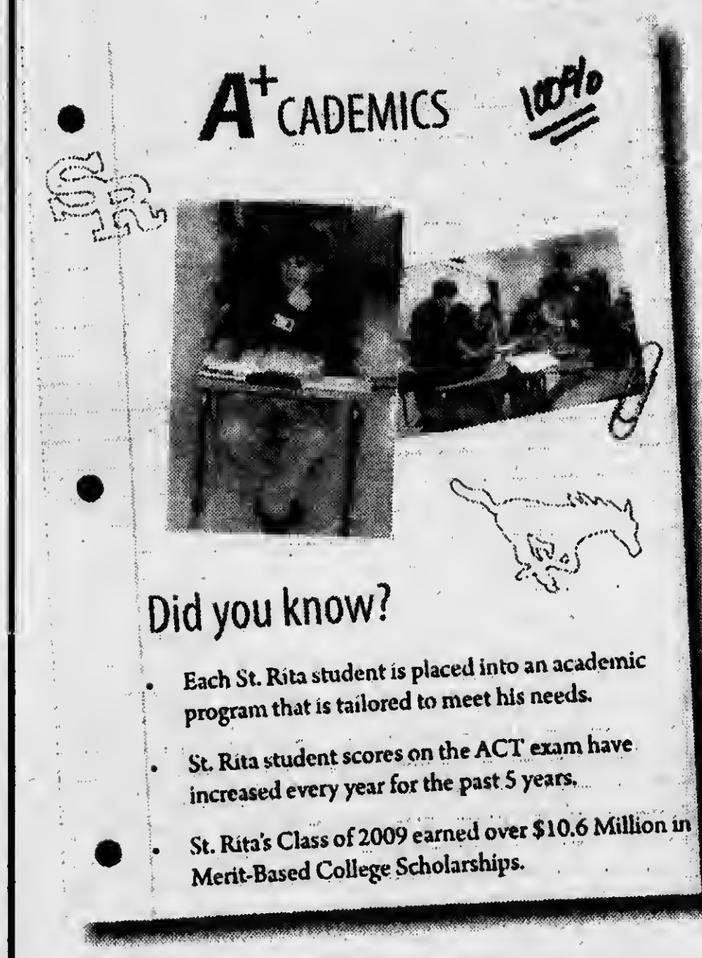

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- St. Rita's Class of 2009 earned over $10.6 Million in Merit-Based College Scholarships.

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For More Information Contact
Craig Ferguson
Director of Admissions
773-925-RITA
cferguson@stritahs.com

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12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Over $900,000 in Financial Aid & Scholarships Awarded Annually!

www.stritahs.com/admissions

Moraine Valley Fine & Performing Arts Center releases calendar

September 21-October 15. Amanda Simons Art Exhibition Robert F. DeCaprio Art Gallery Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and during most performances.

Here is what Amanda says about her art, "My work is an exploration of the legal and social struggles of lesbian domestic partnership in contemporary America and what that partnership means in the context of both heterosexual and homosexual communities."

October 3: Gala Season Opener Kevin Moore presents Score-by-Score: The Best of Broadway Musicals Celebrating Rodgers & Hammerstein. 3 p.m. (7:30 p.m. SOLD OUT) Tickets available for 3 p.m. show only: General public $25, seniors $20, students $15

Dorothy Menker Theater, a unique opportunity to hear some of Rodgers and Hammerstein's greatest works and learn about the inspirations for the music and lyrics. Six outstanding Chicago cabaret artists will perform numbers from musicals such as Oklahoma! South Pacific, King and I, and The Sound of Music. Performers include Anne Burnell, Laura Freeman, KT McCammond, Beckie Menzie, Tom Michael, and Daryl Nitz, with Kevin Moore of AM1530 WJJG as emcee.

October 10: Moraine Chorale and Chamber Singers Fall Concert, 7:30 p.m. Tickets: $12 adults, $10 seniors and students. Join us for some festive folk songs and some spirited spirituals.

October 17: John Waters: This Filthy World, 7:30 p.m. Tickets: $25 adults, $20 seniors, $15 students.

Oct. 19-Nov. 12: Kim William Fink Art Exhibition at the Robert F. DeCaprio Art Gallery. Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and during most performances. Kim William Fink explores contemporary American popular culture and documents its symbolic language through his work.

Nov. 5-8: Evil Dead: The Musical Book & Lyrics by George Reinblatt Music by Frank Cipolla/ Christopher Bond/Melissa Morris/George Reinblatt Directed by Tommy Hensel. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 5-7, and 3 p.m., Nov. 8. Tickets: $12 adults, $10 seniors and students

Based on Sam Raimi's 1980s cult classic films, Evil Dead tells the tale of five college kids who travel to a cabin in the woods and accidentally unleash an evil force. And although it may sound like a horror, it's not! The songs are hilariously campy, and the show is bursting with more farce than a Monty Python skit. As musical mayhem descends upon this sleepover in the woods, "camp" takes on a whole new meaning with uproarious numbers like "All the Men in My Life Keep Getting Killed by Candarian Demons."

Nov. 14: Til Death Do Us Part: Late Nite Catechism 3 Time: 3 p.m. (7:30 p.m. SOLD OUT) Tickets: $25 adults, $20 seniors, $15 students.

Sister is now offering up her hilarious lessons on the Sacraments of Marriage and Last Rites, including her own wacky version of "The Newlywed Game." Classroom participation is a must, so bring along your sweetie and a sense of humor for some quality time with Sister, the feistiest couples counselor in town.

Nov. 16–Dec. 17: MVCC Faculty Exhibition Robert F. DeCaprio Art Gallery Time: Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and during most performances. Reception: Thursday, Nov. 19, 2-4 p.m.

Moraine Valley Community College art faculty share recent work with the college and community.

Nov. 21: A Benny Goodman Centennial Tribute, Time: 7:30 p.m. Tickets: $25 adults, $20 seniors, $15 students. Dorothy Menker Theater.

Benny Goodman's clarinet helped define a whole new style of music in the 1930s: Swing. His classic recordings of popular songs and dance music, so powerful and exciting then, still captivate us today. Benny Goodman became a bona fide star, and jazz was transformed as the Swing Era was born

For tickets or more information on any performance, please contact the Box Office at (708) 974-5500, or visit the Moraine Valley web page at www.morainevalley.edu/FPAC.

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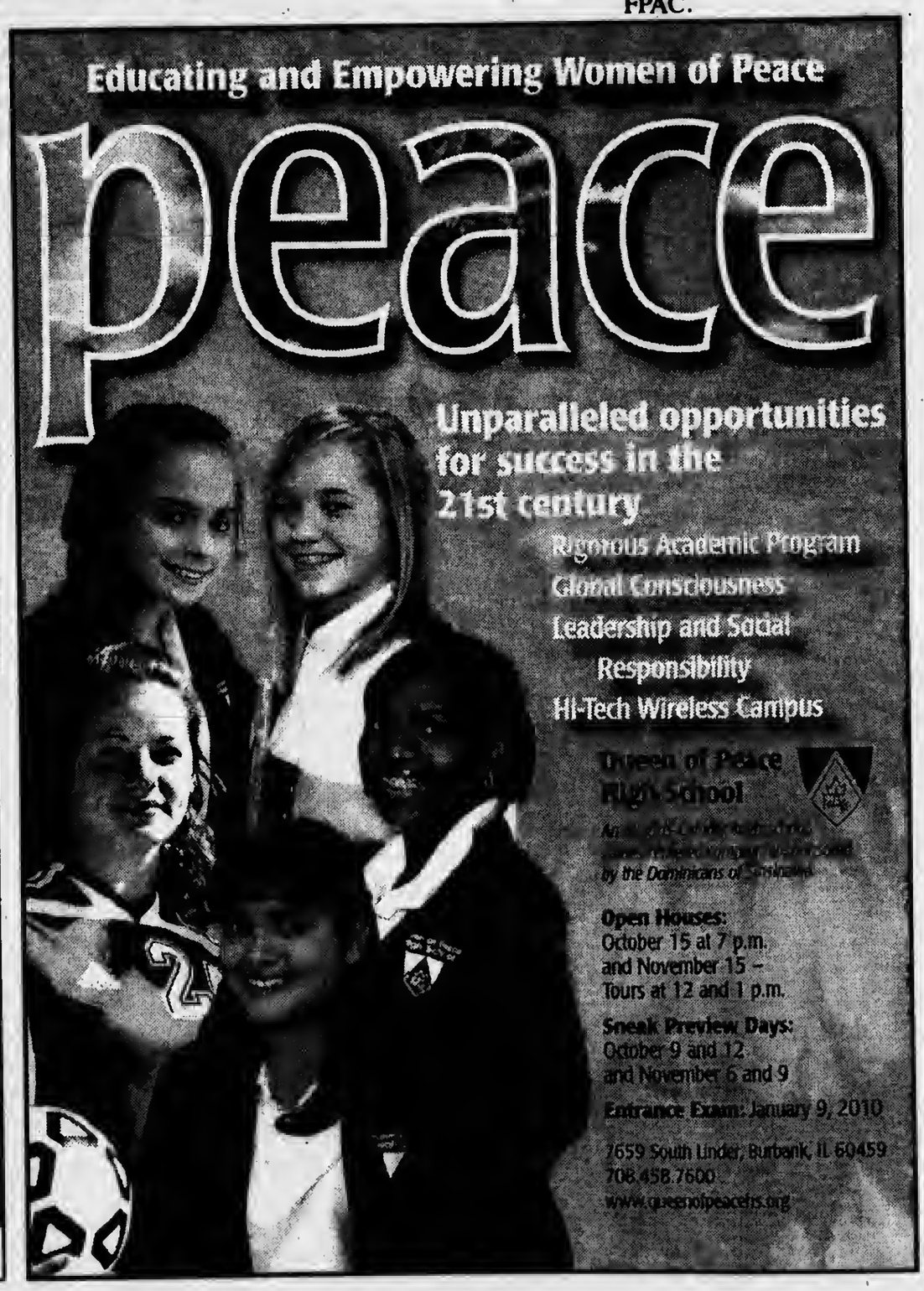

Tinley Park Theater presents Love Letters

For a few hours, audiences who come to the Tinley Park Community Theater's production of Love Letters, will be invited to spend some time with two lives, that of Andy Ladd and Melissa Gardner, as they conduct a love affair through the mail. The play is an exploration of the lives of two people born to privilege and money, and their relationship, conducted mainly through the letters they exchange with each other throughout their lives, starting all the way back at the third grade. The play has a cast of two actors, and t-he actors simply read the letters Andy and Melissa send each other all their lives.

Love Letters will be performed October 23-25 at The Landmark, 6727 W. 174th Street, Tinley Park. Friday and Saturday performances take place at 8:00 pm; Sunday performance is at 3:00 pm. The play is directed by Mike Gandy, assisted by Kathleen Mirabella.

Ticket prices for adults are $12 per person; students and seniors, $10. Tickets may be purchased at the Bettenhausen Rec Center, 8125 W. 171st Street, and if available, at the door. For information contact the Tinley Park-Park District at (708) 342-4200, or www.tinleyparkdistrict.org.

The Tinley Park-Park District maintains over 420 acres of park lands and recreation facilities including its state of the art Bettenhausen Recreation Center, Tinley Fitness – a full-service fitness center, and 40 community park locations. The Tinley Park-Park District was established in 1967.

Haunted Houses, Scary Haunted Trails, October Fests and Fun Fairs, Call Linda to advertise! 312-624-8996.

Fireside Theatre in Fort Atkinson, WI has a hit on its hands

It was in 2001 when the Artistic Director, Ed Flesch, directed The Sound of Music, but this time he out did himself. Before entering the show my expectation was to see another Julie Andrews look alike, to my surprise Cassandra Liveris, Maria, was by far the opposite. This native Naperville young woman played Maria and had the grasp of her audience. Cassandra is tall, with dark hair. While she may not share the physical traits of my notion of a traditional Maria, she does give an exuberant and graceful performance that certainly satisfies the challenge of this popular role. This woman exudes style. Her voice reach is over two octaves and you become mesmerized by her singing.

Credit also goes to Lindsey Powell, Liesl, for her outstanding voice, also with a high octave range. As a classic production, I give this a four stars, and a must see. At this production, there was a couple from Naperville who came for the Wednesday Christian Concert. They were staying at the American Best Value Hotel, next to the Fireside Restaurant and Theatre. Bev and Bill Curry stated that they were both retired educators and Bev was the dean of nursing at Triton College in Illinois. They were proud of Cassandra, even though they had never met her, they were happy to know she was from Naperville, IL.

A reminder for 2010 productions, they will be The Fabulous 50's and 60's, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Cinderella, and Johnny Cash Ring of Fire, also a unannounced Musical Broadway Hit and Lastly, The Child, a story of Jesus in the eyes of Joseph.

Packages of subscription purchases before November 30, 2009 offer 10% off at the gift shop and special offers at select area hotels and other retailers. For information call 1-800-477-9505.

Some of the cast of The Sound of Music perform at the Fireside Theatre

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9am - 1pm
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BAKE SALE ~ RAFFLE TABLE ~ LUNCH
BRING IN NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM FOR A FREE RAFFLE TICKET!
This Craft Show is for a 8th grade fundraiser.

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Saturday, October 10
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FREE ADMISSION!
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www.tinleyparkdistrict.org

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Obituary

Donna L. Klopke, at the age of 62, was born in Chicago, and was residence of Tinley Park, IL. Retired school teacher.

A loving daughter of Walter and the late Gladys; dear sister of Gail Klopke. Resting was at the Kosary Funeral Home in Evergreen Park, IL.

Carolyn P. Golab, Nee Lawrence, at age of 56, a residence of Evergreen Park, IL. and was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Beloved wife of the late Henry; dearest sister of the late Victoria [the late Frank] Frawley, the late Julia [the late Joseph] White, the late Helen Lawrence, the Ann [the late John] Zemaitis and the late Joseph Lawrence Jr.; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Resting was at Kosary Funeral Home at 9837 South Kedzie Ave, Evergreen Park, IL. and Funeral was at St. Bernadette Church for Mass of Christian Burial at then to St. Casimir Cemetery. For further information please call 708-499-3223.

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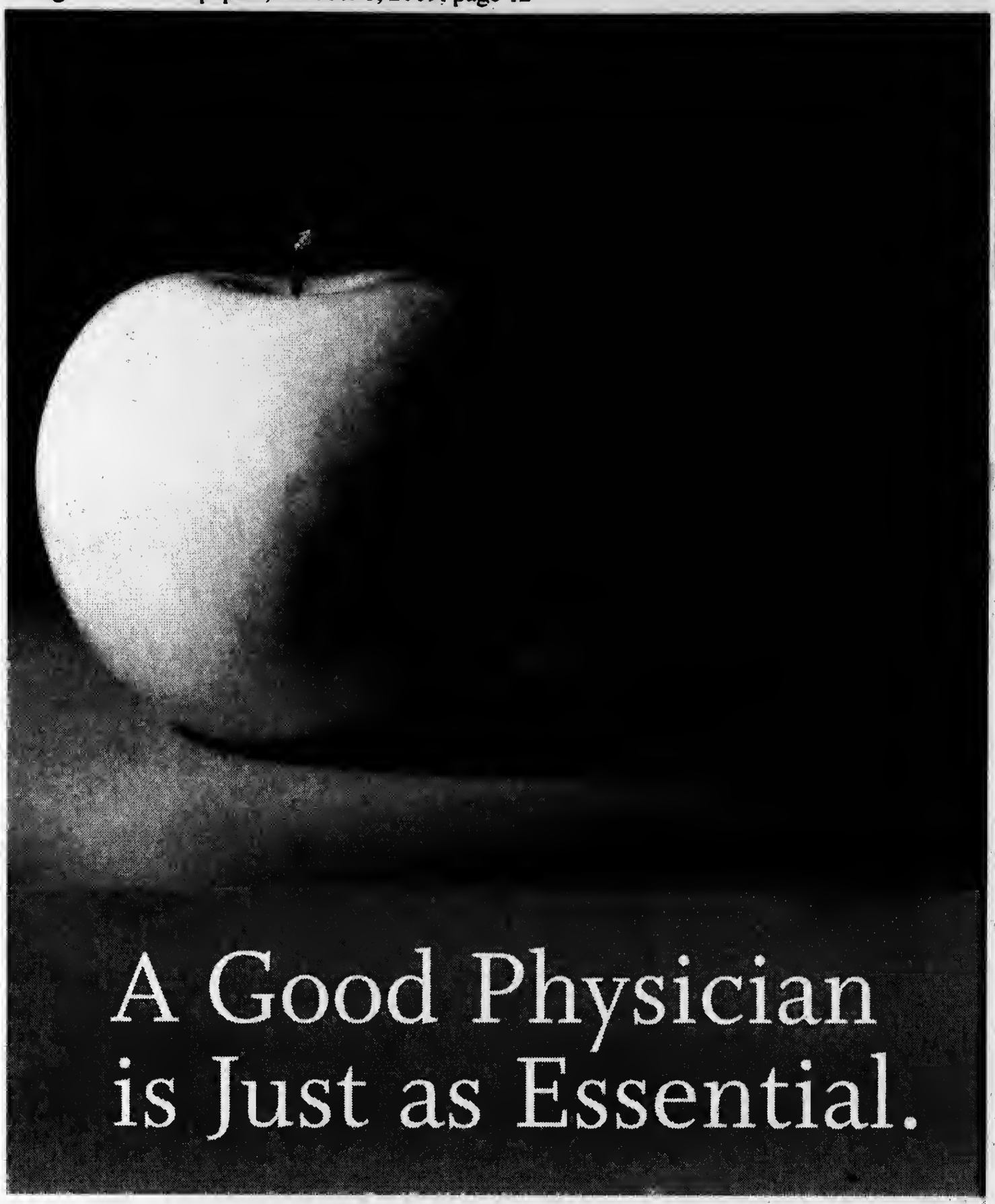

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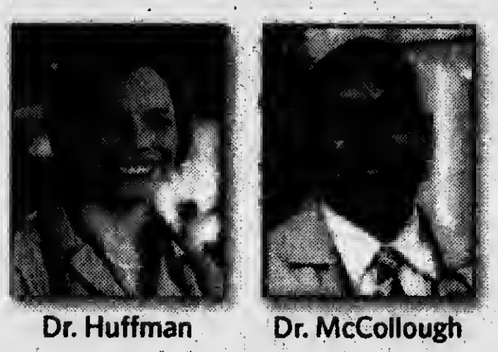

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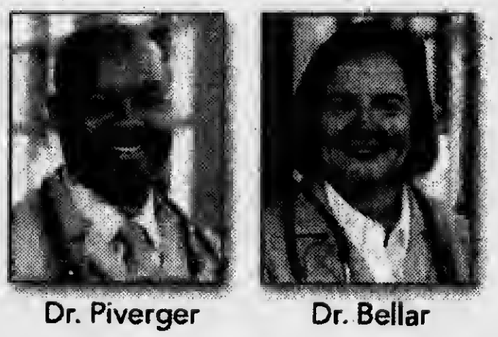

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Far South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 19 October 6, 2009

Fifth Annual Home for the Holidays Orland Park House Walk to Benefit the Crisis Center for South Suburbia

Showcase homes in Orland and Homer Glen will be featured at the 5th annual Home for the Holidays Orland Park House Walk on Sunday November 22, 2009. Get great ideas for decorating your home for the upcoming holiday season! House Walk sponsors Fifth Third Bank, Interiors by Diane Vrbancic and Christine Wilczek of Realty Executives Elite, are providing financial support to help promote the House Walk.

The team of designers includes Southtown Paint & Interiors, Interiors by Diane Vrbancic and Christopher John Floral Designs. Step off from the Orland Park Civic Center located at 14750 Ravinia Avenue. Guided tours of several fabulous homes from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Price of $35 ($45 at the door) includes admission to the Civic Center to holiday shop with local businesses featuring one of a kind items, tasty boxed lunch. Raffle drawings throughout the day..

Proceeds to benefit the Crisis Center for South Suburbia. For ticket purchases contact Janice at 708-429-7255 ext. 126 (jlaging@crisisctr.org). Locations for the 2009 House Walk will be listed soon on our website at www.crisisctr.org and Facebook!

Mt. Assisi Academy partners with Jewel Osco pharmacists to offer flu shots

Mount Assisi Academy is partnering with JEWEL-OSCO pharmacists to offer seasonal flu shots for MAA students, parents, family members, faculty members and staff, as well as residents of the surrounding suburban areas. MAA's 2009 flu shot clinic is scheduled for Friday October 23, 2009 from 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in school's cafeteria.

Influenza can be a serious disease for children of all ages,causing them to miss school, activities or even be hospitalized. Childrenfrom the age of 14 years and older may receive the vaccine the day of theMAA clinic. The cost of the flu shot will be $24.99, payable by cash or check made out to Osco Pharmacy. Parents, grandparents and members of thecommunity are welcome to get their seasonal flu shot at the MAA Clinic.

Students will be required to complete a Parental Consent Form beforereceiving the vaccine. Please note that the vaccine being administered at the MountAssisi Academy Clinic Friday October 23 is for the seasonal virus strain of the flu - NOT the H1N1 virus. For more information please contact Maureen Rogus, R.N., MAA School Nurse at 630-257-7844 or Maria Kirkus, Clinical Pharmacist at Osco Pharmacy in Lemont at 630-243-1887.

Winter Wonderland Dinner Dance sponsored by Orland Township

Orland Township is asking you to get into the Christmas spirit and join them for their Winter Wonderland Dinner Dance for seniors, age 55 and over. The dinner dance will be held on Thursday, November 19, at the Orland Chateau, 14500 S. LaGrange Road , Orland Park, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Tickets are necessary and may be purchased at the Orland Township office, 15100 S. 94th Ave., Orland Park . Resident tickets will available for $16.00 beginning Tuesday, October 6th. Non-resident tickets are available for $21.00 on Tuesday, October 20th.

Ticket price includes a family style meal and entertainment by the Bruce Korosa Orchestra. Door prizes and a 50/50 raffle will be offered. Orland Township serves the communities of Orland Park, Orland Hills, the western half of Tinley Park, and the unincorporated area of Orland Township.

The Orland Township office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday evenings until 6:00 p.m. For more information, contact Kathy Kenyeri, Senior Services Coordinator, at (708) 403-4222.

Oak Forest announces community events

The Oak Forest Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Community Awareness Fair on Saturday, October 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Oak Forest High School, 151st Street and Central Avenue. Stop by the fair to check out Scarecrow Row, donate blood, participate in the silent auction, make your own DVD, walk through the Clean Air Bus, tour a search and rescue helicopter, and much more.

Senior Citizens' Commission hosts health fair on October 22

The Oak Forest Senior Citizens' Commission will host its annual Senior Health Fair on Thursday, October 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Oak Forest Park District, 15601 S. Central Avenue. While at the fair, seniors can register for LIHEAP, get their flu shots, renew their drivers' licenses, take a free glucose test, check their blood pressure, and much more.

Are you the next OFBN star?

The Oak Forest Broadcast Network (OFBN) home of CIC-TV and OFC-TV is looking for a new face to add it to its lineup of on-air personalities. No previous experience required. All you need is a curious nature, a willingness to be on camera, and a love of all things Oak Forest. Think you have what it takes to be the next OFBN star?

Sportsplex Senior Week October 19 through the 22nd

"Senior Week at the village's Sportsplex promotes the health, wellness and interests of the area's many senior citizens," said Trustee Patricia Gira, chair of the village's Recreation, Parks and Green Initiatives Committee.

"This is a great week during which seniors can learn how to be active and healthy, while having fun in the process," added Sportsplex Administrator Ray Piattoni.

Each day of "Senior Week at the Sportsplex" includes scheduled events held from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Scheduled opportunities include use of the facility's golf cages, aerobics, yoga, stretching, bocce ball, bean bags and others. Health screenings will be offered including, blood glucose and cholesterol testing, for which they are free. Flu shots will be available for $25 each or free for seniors with Medicare insurance coverage. The Sportsplex will offer light refreshments and breakfast on various days.

"The Orland Park area has a wonderful senior population. We, at the Village of Orland Park Sportsplex, want to do our part to help seniors live life to the fullest, offering programs and activities that are tailor-made for them," explained Fitness Manager Deborah Geghen who coordinates the village's activities each year.

"Participating seniors will receive a raffle ticket at each of the activities they participate in," Geghen explained. "The hospitals and offices have been generous donating prizes and baskets to make this a great week for seniors," she added.

Seniors participating in at least six activities held during the four-day program will each receive a free t-shirt donated by Central Credit Union.

Pre-registration is required for many of the free events and seniors need not be Sportsplex members or residents of Orland Park to participate. Registration is ongoing. All events are free with the exception of the fees for the medical screenings.

Further information is available at the Village of Orland Park Sportsplex , 11351 West 159th Street . For more information, call the Sportsplex at 708/645-PLAY.

Expo Looking for Exhibitors

The Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce and Carl Sandburg High School are inviting all area businesses to exhibit a booth at the annual Community Expo. The Expo will be held October 17th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. at Carl Sandburg High School located at 13300 S. LaGrange Road in Orland Park .

"Marketing experts everywhere are stressing, and statistics are supporting the need for businesses to aggressively market to survive a recession and profit in a recovery. An Expo is a great way to reach many potential customers at one event." explains Keloryn Putnam , Executive Director of the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce. "We permit direct sales at our Expo, so even home based businesses can use this venue to reach their customers." The Culinary Corner will be back to entice residents to taste samples from participating restaurants and the Antique Car Show is also returning. Always a popular part of past Expos, the Children's Fair organized by Advocate Hope Children's Hospital, will offer fun, health related, hands-on activities for children.

"We have some other fun exhibits that we hope will encourage more residents to attend," Putnam goes onto say. "Our committee is always looking for new and fun exhibits that will attract families." Businesses do not have to be located in Orland Park to purchase exhibitor booth space.

Booth reservation rates for the Community Expo are $250 for chamber members and $400 for non-members. An additional $25 will provide electricity to the exhibitor booth. "Our Board feels strongly about encouraging businesses to join the Chamber." explains Putnam. "To encourage businesses to give chamber membership a try, those who join the Chamber now will receive 3 months of membership services and activities free of charge. The membership renewal will be sent in January 2011. Our Chamber recognizes that in this economic environment, businesses need the extra marketing help a Chamber can provide. It's a great chance to put a Chamber membership to work for you."

For more information regarding the Expo, call the Chamber office at 708-349-2972 or visit the Chamber website to download an application: www.orlandparkchamber.org.

The Orland Park Police welcome visitors to their booth at the 2008 Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce Community Expo. The 2009 Community Expo will be held Saturday, October 17 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Carl Sandburg High School. Exhibitor booth spaces are still available. For more information contact the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce at 708-349-2972 or visit their website at www.orlandparkchamber.org to download a booth reservation form.

No flu for you! Together We Cope prepares for flu season

Staff at Together We Cope lined up for seasonal flu shots recently, as the Oak Park Avenue/Tinley Park Walgreens store inoculated workers at the nonprofit homeless prevention agency. TWC also has launched a campaign to help needy families get flu shots this season.

Kathryn Straniero, executive director of TWC, said her staff works daily with the public and she feels it is important for employees in such situations to be safeguarded from the seasonal flu virus. "It is important for the health of our employees and members of the public who visit our offices daily that we reduce the risk of infection," she said. To encourage staff participation in the flu shot program, Straniero said TWC paid half the cost of each person's shot this year.

TWC also hopes to purchase a number of Walgreens flu shot gift cards to be distributed to clients. Suellen Wolk, community relations coordinator, said residents who would like to donate to that effort can contact her at (708) 633-5040.

Casino Nights, Bingo, Food Festivals, Craft Shows, Expo's, call for details on advertising at $15 and up.
Ask for Linda at 312-624-8996.

Suellen Wolk of Together We Cope gets her flu shot from a Walgreens pharmacist as part of TWC's effort to inoculate its staff this flu seaon

Marian Catholic offers computer and electronic Recycling Day

Marian Catholic High School's student environmental organization Generation Green is partnering with Intercon Solutions to offer a drop-off site for old and spent computers and electronic devices for green recycling on Sunday, October 11. Electronics and computers contain heavy metals and toxic substances that should not end up in landfills. Intercon Solutions has a zero-landfill tolerance, every bit of your used computers will be recycled.

The collection will be in the Joe Orr parking lot, next to Brzozowski Stadium, from 8 a.m. until noon on Sunday, the same day as Marian's Oktoberfest. There will be 25-cent per pound donation asked for all items. This event is open to everyone in the surrounding areas. Disposing of computers and electronics improperly is harmful to our environment. More information may be obtained by calling Jennifer Clifford at Marian, 708-755-7565, extension 1428.

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South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 19

October 6, 2009

Palos Heights pays off bond

The city council at a recent Palos Heights City Council meeting approved the final payment of the 2002 General Obligation Bond in the amount to $133,328.00. A special use ordinance in a B District for a rehabilitation center at 7202 W. College Drive was approved as well as an ordinance for the third amendment to the Manor Care Subdivision, which will contain a ten bed addition to Manor Care East and will contain a minimum of 177 parking spaces. The ordinance is subject to a final review by Morris Engineering and the Building Commissioner.

Other highlights: The city council approved an ordinance amending the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) life safety code 101, which requires all new commercial construction in the city contain a complete fire sprinkling system.

An ordinance to authorize the city attorney to draft an ordinance amending a section of the municipal code pertaining to signs which would change the maximum size of a sign from 32 square feet to 100 square feet as well as an ordinance to authorize the city attorney to draft ordnance to prohibit video gambling machines in the city was also approved.

A contract with Keith Edmier, an artist, to commission a sculpture for the Art Garden of Palos Heights for $6,000.00 plus shipping.

The dedication of the Art Garden of Palos Heights, formerly called Art Park, was on September 19.

Haunted House Sunday October, 18th 2009 From Dusk until 9:00pm

6810 W. 110th St. Worth, Illinois 60482 Email:chicagolandhalloween@gmail.com Haunts Against Hunger Food Drive Kick Off Thom Kramer p.(630)234-3557 Website: www.chicagolandhalloween.com

Chicagoland Halloween will be kicking off our 2nd annual Haunts Against Hunger Food Drive and lighting of the Worth Halloween House, featured on NBC, ABC & The Chicago Tribune. Stop on by for a cup of hot cider to see our cast of characters including the "Reaper" "Darkside Paul", Ron Fitzgerald, star of "Magus" and many more! Make sure to bring a can of non perishable food to benefit the Greater Chicago Food Depository! Happy Haunts!

Halloween at the Chicago Ridge Park

Saturday October 24th 11:00 am until 2:00 pm. Halloween House Decorating Contest, Halloween Costume Contest/Parade

This is an open invitation to all ghosts, ghouls and goblins. We are looking for the ultimate haunted homestead! To register your spine-chilling house, call the Park District at 708-636-4900 before October 21.

Judging will take place on October 23. Games and PrizesStop and enjoy some of the games we'll be playing! Games like a mummy wrap and relay races will be some of the fun. All contestants get a gift for participating. Time: 1:00pm-2:00pm.

Attention all community members! The Chicago Ridge Park District is inviting all participants with costumes to enter and win a prize! Costumes will be judged on various criteria and winners will lead our parade on a hayride through Freedom Park. Time: Costume judging begins promptly at 11:30am. The Parade will begin at 12:00pm.Age: All Ages (age groups will be indicated when you arrive at Freedom Park)

Pumpkin Carving Contest Come and show off your creative and scary pumpkin carving skills at our Halloween at the park Pumpkin Carving contest.

The judging will result in first, second and third place prize winners for all different age groups from 9 to 15 years old and adults 16 & over. All participants will receive a prize. Please pre-register at the Freedom Activity Center by Thursday, October 22. Time: 1:00pmAge: 9-15 years; adults 16 & olderFee: $5.00
708-423-3959

Century 21 Pro-Teams Annual Octoberfest

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Oct 24, 2009

Please join us! Once again we will be giving away free pumpkins (while supplies last), hot dogs, pop and school supplies! Festivities will include a giant jumpy, D.J. & face painting. Please stop in, bring the kids! We look forward to seeing you! And remember... It's all FREE and our way of thanking you for your patronage.

Century 21 Pro-Team
12932 S. LaGrange Rd.
Palos Park, IL 60464

Attention Palos 118 parents, alumni, and local businesses:
Now is your chance to leave a lasting impression on Palos Schools:

Palos 118 School District Parent Faculty Association's

"Building the Pathway to Our Children's Future" Fundraiser

Palos South East, and West will each be installing their own brick paths, with proceeds from the fundraiser being split evenly between the three schools. Individuals, businesses, or groups may purchase bricks to be placed in the pathway at the school(s) of their choice. The 4" x 8" bricks are $79 each and include up to three lines of inscription, with up to 13 characters on each line. Sales end October 31, 2009. Order forms available online at www.palos118.org/pfa.

It's like being in Europe without a passport

Nestled at the foot of picturesque Camelback Mountain, Inter-Continental Montelucia Resort and Spa has the European influences of the Andalusia region of southern Spain.

It has five pools and it sits on 30 acres featuring 293 hotel rooms and suites, signature restaurant, 31,000 sq. ft. Joya spa and fitness center, meeting space, business center, kids club, a wedding chapel, retail, and Villas. InterContinental in Paradise Valley, Arizona near Scottsdale is a must see.

VFW Meeting

Palos Park
VFW Post #4861

Palos Park VFW Post #4861 is looking for new members. Please join our post meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be October 13, 2009 at Hackney's Restaurant - 9550 S. 123rd Street Please contact Mike Cullotta at 708-448-5390

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

B-MAC EDITION

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 19 October 6, 2009

Midlothian Public Library Monthly Events

Teens Open Mic Night,
Tuesday, October 13, 6:30PM-7:30PM

Teens sign up to strut your stuff through a song, rap, spoken word, poetry, etc. and bring your music. Families, neighbors, and friends come support our teens as they display their talent. See a special performance by Midlothian's Gary "G- MAN BLUES" Wesselhoff. Join us for home grown entertainment, food, music, and fun.

Beating the Unemployment Blues
Thursday, October 15, 7PM-8:30PM

Increase your chances of getting that job offer with the expert help of employment specialist Shirley Moore.

East meets West

A foreign exchange experience Thursday, October 22, 6:30PM

Considering becoming a foreign exchange student or ever wonder what it is like? Join us as Sarah Bielicki, a home-schooled Midlothian student, shares her experience visiting Japan 's Manga Industry and exposure to the Japanese lifestyle as an exchange' student.

Beyond Reality

Tuesday, October 27, 6:30PM-8:30PM Teens come share your insight on books that became movies.

Costume Story Time

Come dressed in costume for all regularly scheduled story times. Bring treats to share and listen to spooky stories.

Ages 3 and under, Tuesday October 27, at 10AM Ages 4 and up, Wednesday, October 28, at 6:45PM School ages Thursday, October 29, at 3:15PM

Computer Classes

Sign up for our 1 hour computer classes:

Website for Job Hunters, Saturday, October 10, at 9AM

Basic Internet, Saturday, October 17, at 9AM

Guided Computer Practice, Wednesday, October 21, at 6:30PM

Guided Computer Practice, Saturday, October 24, at 9AM

Knit Wit Crochet Group meets Wednesdays, 10AM-12PM

Fine Arts Group meets Wednesdays, 1:30PM-4PM

Blue Island announces events of the month

Blue Island Eagles Aux. Candlelight Bowl Oct 10th at 7 pm 2427 W. Grove

Any questions call Sherry Schmitz (sec) 708-297-3775

Health Fair & Flu Shots (not the H1N1) Thursday, October 15th at the East Annex 2434 Vermont Street Cost of the shot is $22.00 for non Medicare Part b & non Medicare.

Free screening for blood pressure, glucose screening, breast self examine demonstrations. hearing screening and more.

Building Dedications and Open House Sunday, Oct. 18, 2009 1 to 4 p.m. Moraine Valley Community College 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills, Illinois. Program 1-2 p.m. in Moraine Business and Conference Center (Building M), followed by ribbon-cutting for Building M, Dr. Vernon O. Crawley Science Hall, and the Student Union/Student Services Center 2-4 p.m. Tours of the new buildings

Children's activities - Enjoy fun games; meet Skiddles the clown and Boomer the Windy City Thunderbolts mascot; explore a fire truck and ambulance; see a Lego robots demonstration; and more!

Exciting science and culinary arts demonstrations Music performances

Refreshments will be served. Ample free parking, keep the date open.

Cruise the night away at the U.S.S. Blue Cap Auction. Friday, November 6, 6:30-10:00 pm. From the moment you cross the gangway you'll be swept away by Casino Games on the starboard side, dancing to the; band "Night Fever" on the port side, and fabulous auctions and raffles on all decks.

Open bar, hors d'oeuvres and a Captain's dinner are all inclusive on the U.S.S. Blue Cap. Semi-formal attire required.

Boarding begins at 6:30 PM from the DoubleTree Hotel, 5000 W. 127th Street Book Now! Reservations are available for $100.00 Please call (708) 389-8137.

We havc a craft corner for your interest and for adversting your craft shows and evernts.
Call 312-624-8996

Alsip has new Police Lieutenant

Police Department Sgt. Scott Zablotny was promoted to Lieutenant at the Sept. 21 Board of Trustees meeting. An ordinance amending the verbiage of a chapter and an article of the municipal code pertaining to vacant buildings was also approved.

Other highlights: The public works department presented a notification to all public works employees stating that they attend the Drug and Alcoholic Compliance training sponsored by the South Suburban Conference of Mayors and Managers Association which was held on Sept. 14. - 28. The training is in compliance with the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991 for employees who supervise other employees who have a commercial drivers license. A public works request to waive the bidding process and approve a three year contract with Folgers Flag for the village Christmas decorations for the light poles on Cicero and Pulaski Avenues was also approved.

The board approved a request from McShane Construction Company for the temporary placement of a trailer at Scientific Dust Collectors at 4101 W. 126th Street. A request to go to bid for a 3-year lawn care contract for village employees was also approved. The Coca Cola Company volunteered to take part in the Community Government Service Program and participated in the clean up and painting of parking space lines at the Village Boat Launch. Advocate Christ Hospital Medical Center is now offering a seven-week smoking cessation program for individuals who wish to quit smoking.

The sessions will run from Oct. 6 - Nov. 17 on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Additional information may be obtained by calling ACHMC at 684-8000.

Come to the Fair !

The Crestwood Fire Department is hosting there 12th Annual Health & Fun Fair, Saturday, October 10, 2009. At the Nathan Hale Middle School, at 135 and Laramie Ave, in Crestwood, IL from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To raise money for much needed firefighting, training and communication equipment to benefit our village.

This year, for the first time, we are inviting all crafters to join us by setting up a booth to sell there items to more there 2,000 people who enjoy our fair each year. Please contact Chris at 708-743-5224 for further information.

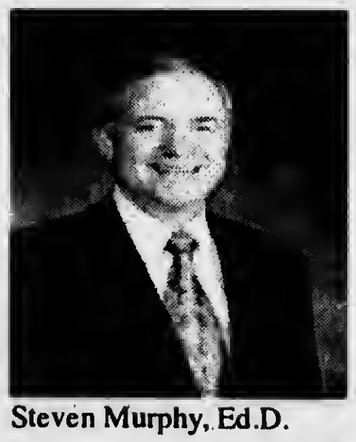
Once again we will offer an All-You-Can Eat Pancake Breakfast, cooked by the chefs of Hughes Restaurant.

Super Cuts will be doing haircuts for a donation of $5.00 [or more], with all proceeds going to the CFD.

Dominick's of Palos Heights will be giving flu and pneumonia vaccines. Price of the flu shots will be determined when the product is released this year, but as always, there will be no cost to Medicare recipients with proof of insurance.

Again this year, Ingalls Memorial Hospital will have a full team of personal present at the Fair to draw blood at reduced rates to screen for Diabetes, Cholesterol, Prostate Cancer, Anemia, Thyroid Disorders and Cardiac Risk.

Mark your calenders for October 10th, and come enjoy this family event!



Steven Murphy, Ed.D.

The Transformational Power of Education

Saint Xavier University's Renaissance Academy will present its 2009 Fall John T. Farrell Sr. Forum on Thursday, Oct. 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Butler Reception Room, located in the Warde Academic Center at the Chicago campus, 3700 W. 103rd St.

Steven Murphy will be the speaker on the topic of The Transformational Power of Education.

Please come and hear Dr. Murphy speak. The lecture is free and open to the public.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

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VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 36 Number 8 October 20, 2009

Freshman Placement Exam

Reavis High School in Burbank, IL, would like to extend an invitation to any 8th graders who are considering attending Reavis High School for the 2010-2011 school year to take the Reavis High School 4th Annual Entrance Exam on Saturday, October 24th, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Reavis High School is located at 6034 W. 77th Street in Burbank, Illinois.

The results of this test, along with 8th grade teacher recommendations, will be used to properly place freshman students into their high school courses. Taking this exam is the first step in making the transition to Reavis a smooth one. Information regarding Step-Up Day, 8th Grade Parent Orientation, and Registra-tion Days will be sent at a future date.

There will be no make-up date for this exam.

Students should arrive at Reavis no later than 8:00 a.m. on the day of the test to ensure they will be able to find their assigned testing room. Students should bring their school ID (if applicable), calculator, and two #2 pencils with them on the day of the exam, Saturday, October 24th.

If you have questions and/or concerns, call Mrs. Grace Stiak at 708-599-7200, ext. 238.

Reavis High School welcomes the "Class of 2014!"

Evergreen Park Library announces their programs

Wrestlemania Reading Challenge!

Teens in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in the "Wrestlemania Reading Challenge" and earn a chance to win a trip for two to Wrestlemania 26! The challenge will take place November 1 through January 19. To register, stop by the Adult Services desk.

Annual Bookmark Contest

Evergreen Park residents in Grades Kindergarten – 6th are invited to participate in the library's annual bookmark contest and create a bookmark using the theme, "Scare Up a Good Book!" Official entry forms can be picked up at the library and are due Friday, Nov 13 at 5:00 pm.

Puzzle Piece Clue

Teens grades 6-12 are invited to visit the library, from November 2 through November 27 to play "Puzzle Piece Clue" and guess whodunit. Each week a little more of the puzzle will be revealed. The solution will be posted Nov 30. To register, call or stop by the library, or visit evergreenparklibrary.org.

All Day Cookin' without Lookin' 2

Adults are invited to the library, on Tuesday, Nov. 3 at 6:30 p.m., to explore delicious new recipes to prepare using their crock pots. Samples to taste and copies of Chef Kate's recipes will be given. Registration and a $3.00 tasting fee are required. Stop by, call or visit evergreenparklibrary.org.

Leaf Print Cards

On Wed., Nov. 4 at 4:00 pm, grades 6-12 are invited to design their own greeting cards using leaves to stamp patterns. Registration required.

Oak Lawn Library will host Halloween Parties for children

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will host two not-so-spooky Halloween Parties for children ages 2 through 7 and their caregivers on Saturday, October 31. Participants may attend this event at either 11 a.m. to noon or 2 to 3 p.m. Each party will feature crafts, games and yummy treats.

All participants, evcn adults, are encouragcd to come in costume. Free admission. No advance registration required. For more information about this and other children's programs, call 708-422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

Evergreen Park Villlage announcements

Evergreen Park Youth Commission is sponsoring its Annual Coat Drive. Any new or uscd, clean coats can be dropped off at Hamilton B. Maher Community Center 3450 W. 97th. until Novcmbcr 7th.

Health Warnings

Cover your Cough - Covcr your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands. Clean your hands after coughing or sneezing with soap and water for 20 seconds. Help keep everyone healthy this flu season.

Add an emergency contact to your drivers license or ID card so that in the event of an accident police can reach your designated emergency contacts. go to http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

Cast Your Vote

Vote for Duffy Park in the Chicago Bears/Staples Dream Park Contest. go to http://staplesdreampark.com and vote once a day. We could win $25K of improvements to our park.

Remember fill your green cans first with leaves and sticks.

Oak Lawn announces Halloween and Christmas events

Oak Lawn Trick and Treat hours, on Saturday, October 31, 2009, hours are 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Santa Claus is coming to town November 28.

The Village of Oak Lawn hosts it's annual Santa on the Green on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. A mini-parade will kick off from the Police Department and proceeds on Oak Street to the Village Green. Santa Claus arrives with the Parade on Dumke Drive and is available to hear children's requests inside the gazebo. Remember to bring your camera, photos are available with Santa, Frosty the Snowman and the Elf Stilt-Walker.

The heated hospitality tent features face painters and Christmas caroling by one of our local schools which begins at 3:00 pm.. Cookies, hot cocoa and egg nog are served free of charge.

Families can also take a winter sleigh ride around the village green and Children can enjoy a mini-train ride on the polar express. The Oak Lawn Village Green is located at 94th & Cook Avenue, north of the Oak Lawn Library.

Prairie Trails Library annual Veterans Day event

On Wednesday, November 11th 10:45 a.m. - at the Veterans Memorial – State Rd & Melvina – Remembrance Ceremony & Community Covenant Signing 11:30 a.m. - at the Prairie Trails Library – State Rd & Moody – USO Canteen w/cake, Coffee, token gifts & music by Afterglow

Please join The Prairie Trails Library and sevcral community dignitaries this day when, in addition to the Veteran's Day Remembrance, the Community of Burbank will commit to a Covenant with the United States Army recognizing the commitment soldiers and families are making every day. There will be speakers on behalf of the community and US Army. Join us is remembering the soldiers of yesterday and today.

OFA holds events in all 50 states to build support for health insurance reform

Organizing for America (OFA), a grassroots project of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) committed to supporting President Obama's agenda for change, will be holding a national day of action on health insurance reform in all 50 states on Tuesday. OFA's 'Time to Deliver' health insurance reform events will take place in neighborhoods across the country. As momentum builds and we get closer than ever to reform, OFA volunteers will attend these "Time to Deliver" events on Tuesday in living rooms, coffee shops and senior centers to continue building support for the President's plan.

At the events, community members will watch a live simulcast of President Obama as he addresses volunteers gathered from coast to coast and encourages them to reach out to their neighbors, friends and family to call Members of Congress and show that local constituents support health insurance reform. The evening's events are part of a larger nationwide "Time to Deliver" effort that includes events from partner organizations as well as an online component. Also throughout the day, members of the OFA email list will be encouraged to call their Members of Congress by using OFA's online neighbor-to-neighbor call tool with the goal of generating 100,000 calls and commitments to call Congress in a single day.

"We are closer to reform than we have been at any time in the last 60 years and there is no doubt that the momentum behind reform is growing - now is the time to deliver. Tuesday's events are an opportunity for American's in all 50 states to do just that – build support for President Obama's plan for health insurance reform," said Organizing for America director, Mitch Stewart. "With the goal of 100,000 calls and commitments to call Congress on Tuesday, we will send a clear sign to those opposing reform and supporting the status quo that American's want health insurance reform and now is the time to deliver"

This effort comes at a critical time in the health insurance reform debate. Since the summer, support for health insurance reform has been growing, and we're closer than ever to making reform a reality. That's because at its core, the President's reform will achieve three goals that are critical to all Americans- it will provide stability and security to those who have insurance, more quality, affordable choices to those who don't, and reign in the skyrocketing cost of health care for families, businesses and government.

OFA is committed to building on and strengthening the historic grassroots network created during the campaign to elect President Obama. Since June 6th, OFA has held nearly 20,000 events in all 50 states.

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vvnew@sbcglobal.net

Owner/Editor/Publisher Annette Dixon
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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

U.S. Department of Labor provides nearly $775,000 to continue severe storm recovery efforts in Illinois

The U.S. Department of Labor has announced a $774,925 National Emergency Grant increment to support continued clean-up and recovery efforts in the wake of severe storms that occurred in Illinois in 2008.

"Parts of Illinois are still working to recover from destruction caused by severe storms in June 2008. This additional funding will allow temporary workers to stay on the job and further the process to a complete regional recovery," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis.

This final increment will be awarded to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Funds will be used to both continue existing temporary jobs and create 34 addition jobs to assist in the clean-up and recovery efforts as a result of the devastation caused by the storms.

On June 24, 2008, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declared the following 13 counties in Illinois eligible for FEMA's Public Assistance Program: Adams, Calhoun, Clark, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland , Hancock, Henderson , Jasper, Lawrence , Mercer, Pike and Rock Island . The declaration was later amended to include the counties of Douglas, Edgar, Jersey, Lake, Madison , Monroe , Randolph , St. Clair and Winnebago.

On June 27, 2008, a grant in the amount of $3.5 million was awarded to the state, with $2 million released initially to create about 200 temporary jobs for eligible dislocated workers to assist in the clean-up and recovery efforts. On May 13, 2009, the grant was awarded an increment of $725,075.

National Emergency Grants are part of the secretary of labor's discretionary fund and are awarded based on a state's ability to meet specific guidelines. For more information, visit http://www.doleta.gov/NEG.

Final traffic enforcement campaign yields 157 citations

Department receives another grant to continue to promote traffic safety

From August 20 through September 7, the Oak Forest Police Department issued 157 tickets as part of a traffic enforcement campaign funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation's Integrated Mini-Grant Enforcement program. While most of the tickets were issued for speeding, other offenses included driving while under the influence, not wearing seat belts, lack of insurance, and suspended or revoked driving statutes.

"Our main goal is to make our streets safer for drivers and pedestrians," said Lieutenant Michael Shaughnessy. "Campaigns like these help us reinforce to drivers how important it is to drive responsibly."

The campaign was the final in a five-part program to promote traffic safety by conducting saturation patrols in pre-assigned areas. A post-grant survey shows that seat belt compliance in the city has dipped slightly below the state average of 91 percent. According to Shaughnessy, the Police Department will step up enforcement efforts during the next campaign, which will begin in November.

"Just like before, we'll be encouraging motorists to drive safely," Shaughnessy said. "In particular, we'll be looking to make sure motorists are wearing their seat belts, staying within the speed limit, and driving while sober."

The department has received a $40,000 grant to conduct an additional five campaigns. The grant money will pay for officers' salaries and vehicle expenses during the campaign.

Senator Roland W. Burris sends letter to the people of Illinois

Dear fellow Illinoisan,

As Congress debates contentious issues such as health care reform, climate change, and our continued economic recovery, it is more important than ever to keep in touch so that I can faithfully serve your needs in Washington.

To that end, I will be providing details of my legislative efforts in periodic e-newsletters, such as this one. I will also be launching a new website, where you will find information about specific legislation, services my office can provide, and the issues you care about most. In a few weeks, you'll be able to visit www.burris.senate.gov to explore my redesigned online office.

Sertoma Centre's Mental Health Program opens in Matteson

It has already been a busy fall season for Sertoma Centre, and all of the individuals with developmental, physical, emotional disabilities and/or mental illness that we serve.

In addition to the activities that we accomplish at our two Alsip-based day program facilities, in our nine Community Integrated Living Arrangements (CILAs) and at the Good as New Thrift Store, Sertoma Centre, Inc. is proud to announce the opening of our new mental health facility in Matteson.

Sertoma individuals and staff are looking forward to showing off their space to the community during an open house on Tuesday, October 13th from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The mental health program, which moved from its offices at our day program facility on 127th Street in Alsip , now shares a building with the Good as New Thrift Store at 4331 West Lincoln Highway in southwest suburban Matteson.

With over 30 individuals served here, the space includes a fitness center, library, and computer lab as well as offices, classrooms and conference rooms.

Mental Health Services Manager John DeMarsilis hopes that Tuesday's open house will show the community how Sertoma Centre empowers individuals with disabilities to achieve personal success.

"Everyone within the mental health services department is excited to share this incredible facility with not only the families (of individuals) who attend program here, but also the residents of the Matteson community."

Prior to the open house, a formal ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on Monday, October 12 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Refreshments will be provided and tours of the new facility will be available prior to the official ribbon cutting that will take place at 6 p.m.

For more information about the open house, the ribbon cutting, or the mental health program, please contact John DeMarsilis, mental health services manager at (708) 748-1951 ext 417.

For more general information on Sertoma Centre, to schedule a tour, or to make a donation, please contact Melanie Jones, director of advancement and communications, Sertoma Centre, 4343 West 123rd Street , Alsip , IL 60803 , (708) 730-6206, mjones@sertomacentre.org.

For additional information on our various services and programs, interested individuals can also log on to www.sertomacentre.org.

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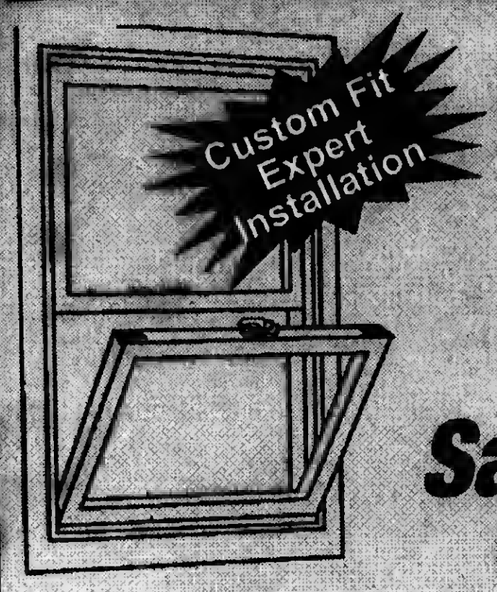

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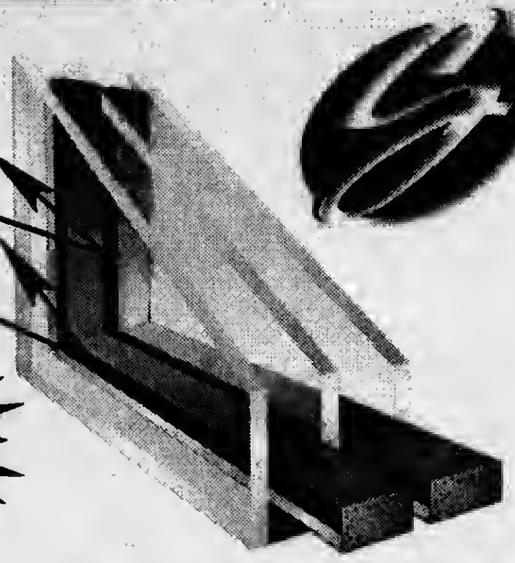
As part of the Economic Stimulus plan, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 modifies and extends federal tax credits for "qualified energy efficient improvements" which include windows, and doors up to an aggregate limit of $1,500 for tax years 2009 and 2010.



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Of Blissful Sacred Space & Spa

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You have a wealth of natural ingredients at your fingertips, but they may look like weeds! You probably have plants there that come back every year that you have no idea what they are or what to do with them, for example: rosemary, mint, tarragon, lemon balm, oregano, dill, chives, etc

When you harvest them, do it slowly and do not take more than ¾ of the plant at once. The ancient way to thank the plant for its harvest is to bury a crystal at the roots.

What to do with them? Your easiest plan may be to wash and freeze them and worry about it later! Your next easiest way could be to wash then find a safe place to hang/dry them out. Best and most immediate satisfaction is to wash then add them in a big pot of soup and enjoy today!

Fresh citrus peels added to a bath or simply boiled on the stove top for steam add an aromatherapy comfort. Dried citrus peels added to potpourri are lovely, you can even freshen them up by dropping pure essential oils right on the peels! Visit Blissful Sacred Space & Spa for our "Herbs & Oils" Class: RSVP with Sharon most Fridays at 5pm. Contact Sharon@myblissfulspa.com 630-241-4100.

Little Company of Mary Offers Training for Hospice Volunteers

Little Company of Mary Hospital and Health Care Centers invites members of the community to become a Hospice Volunteer. The Hospice Program provides compassionate care to patients with a terminal diagnosis. Patients are cared for in their homes surrounded by the people who love them.

The Hospice program at Little Company of Mary is one of the first in the area and has been serving the terminally ill in their homes since 1976. The program provides spiritual, medical, emotional and social support to those in the final stages of life - and their families.

"It is our goal to help our patients find comfort and peace in their final days," explained Little Company of Mary Hospice Resource Nurse Anna Putlak, R.N. "The volunteer plays an important role in our ministry to the dying. They listen, reminisce, and reassure the patient through touch and kind words. The volunteer also provides support to the family, allowing them to run errands or to take a break from 24-hour caregiving."

Hospice volunteers are trained and supervised and can work in the patient's home, nursing home, or in the hospice office where they provide administrative support to the hospice team. "Hospice volunteers are full of love, compassion and patience," Putlak continued. "They have such a strong desire to be there for the other person, especially at such an important and spiritual time in their lives."

The program offers training in orientation sessions in addition to self-study modules. If you are interested in becoming a Hospice Volunteer and want more information please call Ann Putlak at 708.229.6901.

Your ad could be in this Space, advertising your company at a low rate.
Call 312-624-8996 for details.

Smith Village presents Oct. 28 seminar on bridging communication gap with older parents

Dr. Sam Robinson offers tips on sensitive subjects at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28, Dr. Sam Robinson will talk about "Bridging the Communication Gap between Seniors and their Families" at Smith Village, 2320 West 113th Place in Chicago. This free presentation is designed to help adult children learn to talk about sensitive subjects as well as how to convey their wishes for them to their parents. A certified senior advisor, Dr. Robinson is president of Robinson Senior Care Inc., which specializes in helping people navigate changes associated with the aging process.

According to Smith Village resident and long-time Beverly resident Paul Slosar, "I was in denial about caring for my wife Maureen. Although I was more than capable of helping her day-to-day, our children understood that their mother's needs were greater than I realized."

Adds Slosar, "Now, I know they were right. The Smith Village staff helps me care for Maureen so I can spend quality time with her. I also feel more at ease pursuing my own interests since I have moved into an independent living apartment on the same campus." He will be at the presentation to answer guests' questions.

About Smith Village

Smith Village residents find their vibrant lifestyle well suited to keeping active and engaged in the community. They benefit from programs and residences designed for each level of care: assisted living, Alzheimer's and memory support, skilled nursing care and rehabilitation services, and respite care, as well as independent living.

This continuum of care makes it possible for residents to live as independently as possible while enjoying the daily support they need, according to Smith Village admissions director Pat Coleman.

In addition to spacious and bright apartment homes, Smith Village offers three meals a day for residents in all settings except independent living. Independent living residents appreciate the flexible dining program for their meals. All residents have access to myriad activities and programs, spa/beauty salon and a fitness center with a full-time fitness specialist on staff.

Smith Village is one of the highly regarded Smith Senior Living communities in the southwestern region of metropolitan Chicago. The not-for-profit organization established its first community in 1924 on the site of Smith Village's new campus.

For more information about how Smith Village can help seniors thrive during their retirement, please call 773-474-7300 or www.SmithVillage.org.

Need help paying for your winter heating bill

Cook County Commissioner Joan Patricia Murphy is Hosting an Energy Assistance Fair Wednesday, March 18th. Apply now, for Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) as well as Nicor Sharing and ComEd assistance programs.

The Energy Assistance Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 4th at the Crestwood Bingo Hall. Located in the Playfield Shopping Plaza at 5441 W. 127th Street in Crestwood.

When applying for assistance, please bring the following items with you. Proof of gross income for the last 30 days. Original Social Security Cards for all household members. A copy of your current Nicor and ComEd bills.

If you rent and utilities are included, bring proof of rental agreement stating your monthly rent amount and landlord information. Don't miss Commissioner Murphy's Energy Assistance Fair and representatives from CEDA, Nicor Gas and ComEd.

Find out if you qualify for LIHEAP and receive a payment directly to your heating bill. For more information and income guidelines call Ceda at: (708) 339-3610 or (708) 371-1522.

Attention Owners of Banquet Halls, Restaurants!
This is the time to call for advertising your business for holiday events. Call
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Happy Halloween

Nothing is scarier then someone walking around with teeth missing in there smile. Our skilled staff can take the fright out of your smile and help you with any of your dental requests. We have been serving the neighborhood dental needs for over 29 years with more than 125years of combined dental knowledge. Also, with a lab on premise we can have your denture work completed in a timely manner. Our emphasis is on your comfort with a relaxing and friendly atmosphere.

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Your Smile Says It All

Worth Public Library hosts slide and lecture program

On Saturday, October 24th , the Worth Public Library District, 6917 W. 111th Street, will host a slide and lecture program titled "Modern Iran, Ancient Persia" at 1:00 pm in the Library Meeting Room.

Iran has a long proud history that predates the 7th century Islamic invasion. Its ancient kings preceded the Greeks in promoting human rights and religious tolerance. Now Iran is an Islamic Shiite theocracy, a nation in turmoil. Bill Helmuth, world traveler and storyteller, will present this interesting program. As we watch the pictures of his 1000-mile overland trip, Mr. Helmuth will give an eyewitness account of Iran 's realities.

As a Director of Sales for Time-Life Books, Bill had unique access to and an insider's perspective of world cultures. Please register at Worth Public Library or by phone at 448-2855

Oak Lawn Library announces their programs

Bookopoly Played by Grades 4-6

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., invites Oak Lawn residents and students of Oak Lawn schools in fourth through sixth grade to participate in the next "Bookopoly" game event on Thursday, November 5 from 4 until 5 p.m.

For this free, monthly, afterschool program offering, young players read the same book and then come together to divide into teams and compete in a game of trivia questions and physical challenges.

The November reading selection is "Regarding the Fountain" by Kate Klise. Advance registration is required with the child's library card. Copies of the book are available at the Youth Services Desk one month in advance.

For more information about this and other children's programs at the library, call 708-422-4990 or visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org.

Historic Ballrooms and Orchestras of Chicagoland

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will host a nostalgic program celebrating "Chicago's Ballrooms and Orchestras" on Wednesday, November 4 at 2 p.m.

Take a trip down memory lane with public speaker Larry Bergnach and reminisce about Chicago's legendary ballrooms and orchestras. This interactive variety show will feature skits, dancing and sing-alongs. Bring back fond memories of The Aragon, Trianon, O'Henry, Edgewater Beach Hotel. Enjoy the music and songs of Lawrence Welk, Chuck Foster, Wayne King, Jan Garber, Eddy Howard, Glen Miller, Guy Lombardo and many more. Afterwards, view Larry's collection of memorabilia..

For a complete listing of adult programs visit www.oaklawnlibrary.org. For additional information, call 7084224990.

Ongoing Food Drive

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., is now sponsoring an ongoing food drive. Community members may drop off nonperishable food and canned goods in the library's lobby.

The food collected will be given to Oak Lawn food pantries for distribution to needy families in the area.

For more information, call 708-422-4990.

Reunion - Class of 1999 St. Gerald School
Reunion Date- October 24, 2009 For information development@stgerald.com or call 708-422-214

Reunion -Class of 1990
Looking for St. Gerald alumni from 1990. A reunion is in the planning for spring of 2010. develoment@stgerald.com or voice mail 708-422-2194

Evergreen Park Library announces teen and adult programs

Wrestlemania Reading Challenge!

Teens in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in the "Wrestlemania Reading Challenge" and earn a chance to win a trip for two to Wrestlemania 26! The challenge will take place November 1 through January 19. To register, stop by the Adult Services desk.

Annual Bookmark Contest

Evergreen Park residents in Grades Kindergarten – 6th are invited to participate in the library's annual bookmark contest and create a bookmark using the theme, "Scare Up a Good Book!" Official entry forms can be picked up at the library and are due Friday, Nov 13 at 5:00 pm. Call, stop in, visit evergreenparklibrary.org.

Puzzle Piece Clue

Teens grades 6-12 are invited to visit the library, from November 2 through November 27 to play "Puzzle Piece Clue" and guess whodunit. Each week a little more of the puzzle will be revealed. The solution will be posted Nov 30. To register, call or stop by the library, or visit evergreenparklibrary.org.

All Day Cookin' without Lookin' 2

Adults are invited to the library, on Tuesday, November 3 at 6:30 p.m., to explore delicious new recipes to prepare using their crock pots. Samples to taste and copies of Chef Kate's recipes will be given. Registration and a $3.00 tasting fee are required. To register, call or stop by the library, or visit evergreenparklibrary.org.

Leaf Print Cards

On Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 4:00 pm, grades 6-12 are invited to design their own greeting cards using leaves to stamp patterns.

To register, call or stop by the library, or visit evergreenparklibrary.org.

District President to attend American Legion Auxiliary's October meeting

The American Legion Auxiliary of Evergreen Park, Post 854, will hold their monthly meeting on Monday, October 26, 2009 . Joan Lewis, President of the Auxiliary's 8th District will attend. The Auxiliary holds regularly scheduled meetings on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post 854, 9701 S. Kedzie in Evergreen Park . The American Legion Auxiliary promotes patriotism and is committed to helping active service men and women, veterans and their dependents, children and youth of the community, and the community as a whole.

For information about eligibility and membership in the Auxiliary, contact Dian Kinahan at 708-229-2129.

South West Special Recreation Association Candlelight Annual Bowl

South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA) will host their annual fun-filled Candlelight Bowl Fundraiser on Saturday, November 7th from 9:30 to Midnight. The event will be held at Orland Bowl located at 8601 W. 159th St. in Orland Park . Purchase a ticket for $25 that includes 3 – 4 games of bowling (shoes are a separate fee) and a buffet dinner. A buffet dinner only ticket can be purchased for $15. If bowling is not up your alley, raffles, door prizes and split-the-deck will also be available. All proceeds will benefit SWSRA services.

New this year is a tier of sponsorship packages available for purchase ranging from $25-$500.. If you would like to receive a list of sponsorship opportunities, make a donation or purchase a ticket, please contact the SWSRA office at (708) 389-9423. A list of sponsorship opportunities can also be found on the web at www.swsra.com.

SWSRA is a non-profit organization that provides recreation services for individuals with special needs.

Palos Park Recreation Department is holding their annual Turkey Trot

Palos Park Recreation Department Palos Park Recreation is holding their annual Turkey Trot (USATF Certified Course) on November 7. We are offering a 1-mile run for children (ages 14 and under) at 8:00a.m. and the 5K run begins at 9:00a.m. The fee for the 1-mile is $12 and $15 for the 5K. Runners and walkers are encouraged to participate. Trophies will be awarded three deep in each age division.

This certified course is through scenic areas of the Village with rolling terrain. For more information, call 671-3760. or visit the Palos Park Recreation Department located at 8901 West 123rd Street .

St. Laurence High School Presents

Viking Tailgate Trivia Night

Saturday November 14, 2009

St. Laurence High School • 5556 W. 77th St.
Burbank, Il 60459
708-458-6900

Doors Open @ 6:00PM Kickoff @ 7:00PM

Game Plan:
Ten people to a table (Reserved under one name)
Cost $150.00 Prepaid
Bring your own food or Order food from area restaurants
Beer, Wine, Mike's Hard Lemonade, pop and water will be sold.
Raffle / Split the Pot/ Music
No outside liquor allowed
Please send Request: Attention Trivia Committee
Must be 21 year old to play
Tables are given on a first paid, no tables will be held without payment.
Last Day for reservations November 7th, 2009

Together We Cope volunteer Rich Borden collects food donations from Jackie Faber, owner of Dino Jump in Orland Park , who offers customers a discount when they donate food to TWC.

Jumping for a good cause

Customers of Dino Jump in Orland Park are enjoying discounts on inflatable jump house rentals when they donate food to Together We Cope's food pantry.

Jackie Faber, owner of the business, said if customers give $10 worth of food to Dino-Jump when ordering or taking delivery of a children's jump rental they will be given a $10 discount on the rental. She said she admires the work done by Together We Cope, which assists families in temporary crisis from 22 south suburbs, and chose that agency to benefit from her special offer.

KarenMoran, fundraising coordinator at TWC, said the agency is grateful for the generosity of many local business owners who support TWC. "We rely on our business community to give us a boost during tough times, and Dino Jump is one that always comes through for us," she said.

While primarily a warm weather business, Faber said her company does a fair number of rentals during the winter for parties at gyms, churches or party rooms. Her company is insured and certified by the state. Further information on Dino-Jump is available at 1-800-383-DINO.

A Not-So-Haunted House at Mother McAuley

Mother McAuley's annual Not-So-Haunted House, a Halloween alternative for young children will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2009 from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of mini-plays, games, face painting, puppet shows and Halloween activities for children pre-school thru 4th grade. Children may come in costume and join in the Halloween fun.. Candy treats are given to each participant.

Admission is $2 per person and $4 for adults. No reservations are needed. Please enter at the Mother McAuley Auditorium 3737 W. 99th Street , Chicago

The Not-So-Haunted-House will be presented by members of McAuley's Thespian Troupe #443 of the International Thespian Society, Freshman Acting, Children's Theatre and Play Production students.

For more information, contact the McAuley Theater Department at 773-881-6512.

Antiques Program at Midlothian Public Library

Do you have a "family heirloom" that you treasure, but you're not sure of its value?

The Friends of the Midlothian Public Library is sponsoring its annual antiques program at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 5, at the library. Mary Beth Gannon Keegan will talk about antiques and their value. Her expertise includes: dolls, toys, textiles and American antiques of the 19th and 20th centuries. Participants may bring one item (or a picture of a large item) of interest for discussion. The Midlothian Public Library is located at 147 S. Kenton Ave.

Twain lives again in Tinley

Join the Tinley Moraine Genealogists for a first person Chautauqua-style program by Warren Brown a.k.a. Mark Twain.The written and spoken words of Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) addressing the "History of Science" will give us a deep insight into the nineteenth century and the thoughts and humor experienced by our ancestors. Mr. Brown has been a Mark Twain scholar for many years and through his portrayal of Mr. Twain we can see his down-to earth wit and wisdom- the perfect antidotes for our fast paced world. For more information check out the TMG website at www.tmgenealogists.org.

This program is made possible by funding from the Illinois Humanities Council.

TMG Monthly Meeting: Thursday, November 5, 2009.

Program: "The History of Science" as told by Mark Twain.

Speaker: Warren Brown portraying Mark Twain.

Time: Doors open at 6:15pm, Business meeting at 6:45pm, Program Begins at 7:00pm.

Location: Tinley Park Public Library 7851 Timber Drive (80th Avenue and 180th Street) Tinley Park, IL.

Moraine Valley president chosen as national CEO of the year

Dr. Vernon O. Crawley, president of Moraine Valley Community College, has been selected as the national 2009 Marie Y. Martin Chief Executive Officer of the Year by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). Dr. Crawley was among five regional finalists for the honor.

"I am so pleased to receive this honor because the selection really recognizes Moraine Valley and its outstanding faculty and staff," said Dr. Crawley, who has served Moraine Valley since 1991 and the community college movement for nearly five decades. "This award would not even be possible if it weren't for the dedication and tireless striving of our faculty and staff to ensure all of our students have the best opportunity possible to succeed. I am truly appreciative for what they do to help Moraine Valley continue to offer a quality educational program. I also was deeply touched because there are so many outstanding community college executive leaders who are deserving of this award."

Since coming to Moraine Valley, he has overseen tremendous growth on campus—in enrollment and physical plant. The college enrollment is at an all-time high with more than 19,000 students in the 2009 fall semester, and summer school enrollment also was at a record high.

Dr. Crawley also led the successful $89 million bond referendum campaign that the community approved in March 2006 that resulted in the largest campus expansion since the college constructed its first four permanent buildings in the early 1970s. Two new buildings opened this fall and a third building opened last spring. The college will hold a dedication ceremony and open house on October 18 to celebrate the opening of the Dr. Vernon O. Crawley Science Hall and the Moraine Business and Conference Center. The Student Union began operation on March 16, and the second phase of renovation on the Student Services Center, formerly the College Center, was completed earlier this month. Renovation work has started on two of the original buildings—A and B. Also part of the referendum projects is the Southwest Education Center, which is under construction in Tinley Park. That two-story "green" building is expected to open in fall 2010.

Dr. Crawley has served on numerous local, regional and national boards and has been a mentor and advisor to countless community college leaders. He is called upon to represent all community colleges before congressional and legislative bodies. "Even during this severe economic downturn, Dr. Crawley has kept the college fiscally strong. What is most telling about his relationship with the board is that this is his 18th year as president of Moraine Valley, and we would like him to serve for another 18 years," said Joseph Murphy, board chairman. "I am ecstatic about his selection. He is so deserving of this national honor."

ACCT is a non-profit educational organization of governing boards, representing more than 6,500 elected and appointed trustees who govern over 1,200 community, technical and junior colleges in the U.S. that enroll more than 11 million students annually.

Dr. Vernon O. Crawley

Shedd Aquarium Debuts New Aquatic Show

The premiere of Shedd's newest aquatic show, Fantasea, debuted Oct. 16, the first day of Community Discount/Free General Admission Week. More than a year in the making, Fantasea combines the beauty and grace of Shedd's popular marine animals' natural behaviors with a state-of-the-art theater experience. For more information about the show, and the shedd, visit www.sheddaquarium.org.

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Get ready for Dracula to ring your doorbell and make it a safe make it a safe Halloween

Power Rangers, princesses and some pretty scary monsters are only a few of the costumed characters you'll probably see walking through your neighborhood on Halloween. In fact, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates around 36 million children between the ages of 5 and 13 headed out for trick-or-treating fun around the country in 2008. As many youngsters look forward to a night of dressing up and filling bags of candy while going door-to-door, special emphasis should be placed on safety to ensure everyone has a good time.

"As parents get their children ready for trick-or-treating, some simple steps for child safety should be taken beforethe doorbell ringing and candy gathering begins," said Alice Byrne, Field Vice President for the Midwest Region of Allstate Insurance. Allstate, Health World and the National Safety Council offer some excellent guidelines for preparing children and parents for a truly Happy Halloween

:• Ensure children under age 12 are supervised by an adult or older responsible youth. Plan and discuss the route your trick-or-treaters intend to follow.

• Instruct children to travel only in familiar areas and along an established route.

• Teach your children to stop only at houses or apartment buildings that are well lit, never enter a stranger's home and establish a return time.

• Drivers should watch for children darting out from between parked cars.

• Dress children only in fire-retardant costumes.

• Keep costumes hemmed so they don't cause children to trip. Falls are the leading cause of unintentional injury on Halloween.

• Decorate Halloween costumes with light-colored and light-reflecting material if kids will be out after dark.

• Use facial make-up instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.

• Give children an early meal before sending them trick-or-treating. Tell children not to eat any treat until they return home and when in doubt, throw it out. Memories of Halloween trick-or-treating last for years after the candy is gone. Make it a safe holiday by looking out for young participants taking part in one of our oldest annual traditions.

The Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University proudly presents a family-friendly Halloween extravaganza

The first show of its 2009-2010 "Especially for Kids" series, the **Dave Rudolf "Halloween Spooktacular"** on Oct. 31 at 11 a.m. Kids have the opportunity to come dressed in costume and share the stage with Chicago musician Dave Rudolf for a ghoulishly delightful concert. To complete the afternoon, trick or treating takes place in Governors State University's world-famous Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park immediately following the show (separate ticket purchase required). The Chicago Sun-Times raves that Rudloph is a "first-rate guitarist...[who] knows how to make kids laugh" while WGN Radio calls his music "on the cutting edge of the kid's rock format."

The Dave Rudolf "Halloween Spooktacular" provides ghost-friendly fun for the whole family. Rudolf entertains audiences of all ages with fun songs and stories to raise the hair on their funny bones. In addition to performing Halloween themed songs, Rudolf will lead kids in the Frankenstein Dance, and how to assemble the Skeleton Bones as well as the amazing Ghoul Limbo in a truly interactive, all-ages experience.

Dave Rudolf is a Grammy-nominated musician and comedian. He is a three-time Parents' Choice Award winner, two-time Parent's Guide Award winner and a six-time Children's Entertainment Award winner. Rudolf has released 10 children's albums including his latest CDs in 2005: "Soft in the Head," a primarily acoustic CD and Westward Whoa" which won a Children's Entertainment Award. He has written songs for Disney; opened for major headliners including Tim McGraw, the Beach Boys, and Cheech and Chong; appeared on TV's "Bozo's Circus," and played Captain Kangaroo in the TV pilot of Saban's "All New Captain Kangaroo". Rudolf also has a variety of other kids shows that he performs including "Beach Party", "Christmas with Rudolf", and "Silly Songs for Silly Kids and their Silly Parents."

Single Ticket and Subscription Information

The Dave Rudolf "Halloween Spooktacular" comes to The Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University Saturday, Oct. 31 at 11 a.m. Tickets are currently available as part of subscriptions for The Center's 15th Anniversary 2009-2010 Season, and single tickets go on sale Saturday, Aug. 1 at 10 a.m. Single tickets to the show are $10.50 - $11.50. Single tickets to the post-show party featuring snacks, games and trick-or-treating in Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park are $10.

For subscription and single ticket information call The Center's friendly Box Office staff at (708) 235-2222 or visit www.centertickets.net. Buy one, get one free tickets are available at the box office two hours prior to curtain for one hour only, based upon availability. For group ticket (parties of 20 or more) information, call (815) 756-1263. The Center is located at 1 University Parkway (Governors Highway and University Parkway), 45 minutes south of the Loop, off I-57 at Sauk Trail. Parking is free.

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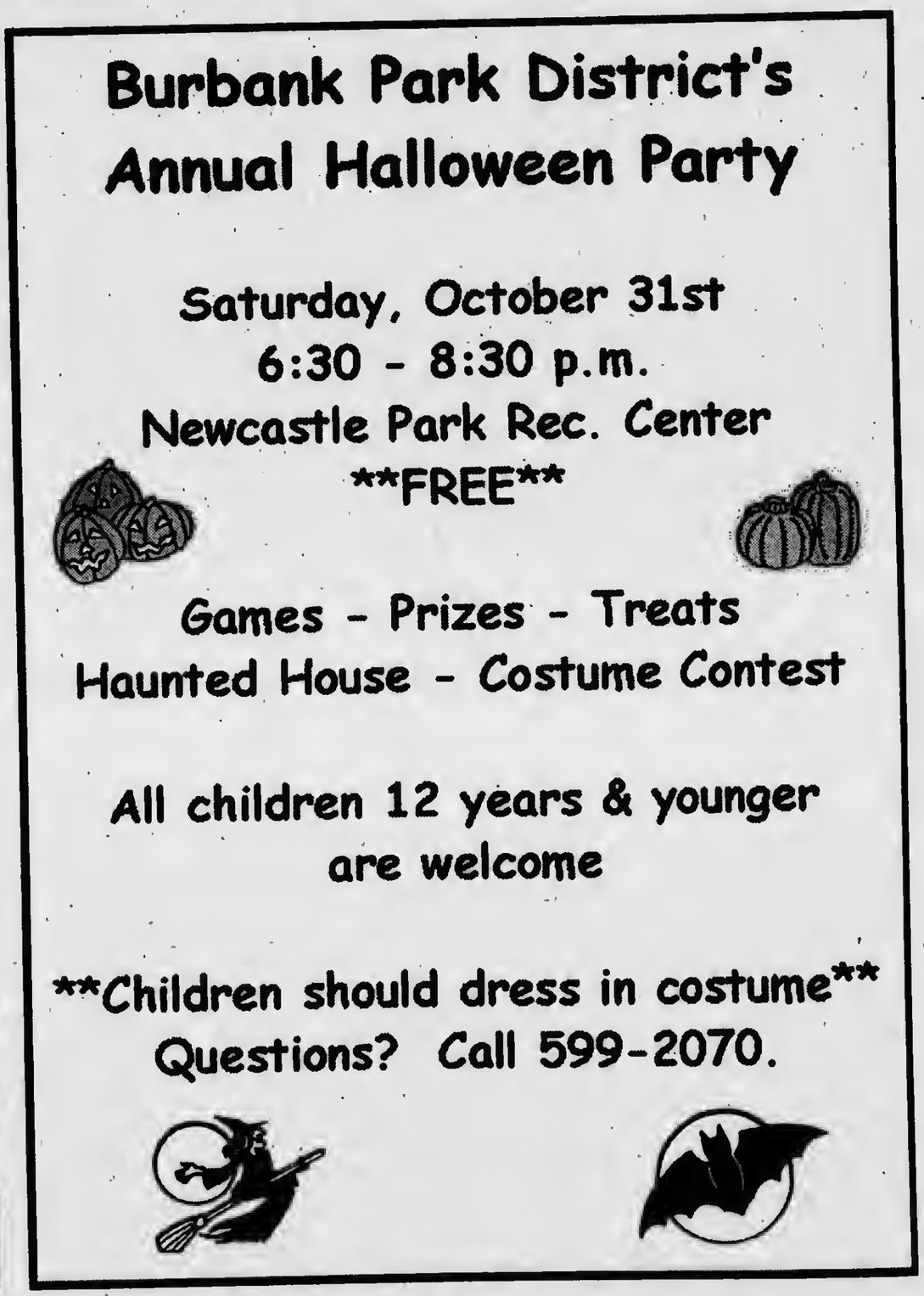

November Perpetual Novena to St. Rita of Cascia announced, all are welcome

All are invited to the next monthly St. Rita of Cascia Novena Mass to be held Thursday, November 5, 2009 at the St. Rita of Cascia Shrine Chapel, 7740 S. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL. Confessions will take place at 6:00 p.m. Mass and novena prayers will begin at 7:00 p.m. Fr. Bill McFarlane, Associate Pastor of St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish, will be the celebrant.

The November Novena Mass is a Mass of Healing and special blessings with St. Rita oil will be available. Secure and ample parking is available.

Attention: VFW, American Legions, Elks Clubs, Kiwanis, and more. Veterans Day is November 11, 2009. Advertise your events in our November 3, 2009 issue.Call for rates, 312-624-8996.

Mother McAuley Liturgical High School

Open House 2009
Sunday, November 8
noon to 2:30pm
&
Tuesday, December 1
6 to 8:30pm

Test Day 2010
Saturday, January 9
8am
Testers must be 8th grade, bring 2 pencils and $25 test fee. There is no pre-registration

Girls' Night Out
A night of games and activities for 7th & 8th grade girls
Friday, December 11
6 to 9pm

Schedule your shadow day visit today!
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3737 West 99th Street, Chicago
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Monday November 23 2009

2009 Open House Dates
Sunday November 1, 2009 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Tuesday December 8, 2009 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Please join us for the Immaculate Conception Liturgy at 8 a.m.

Entrance Exam
Saturday January 9, 2010 at 8 a.m.
$25 test fee, calculators are permitted.

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OPEN HOUSE II
Thursday, December 3, 2009
6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

ENTRANCE EXAM
Saturday, January 9, 2010 ~ 8:00 a.m.

Bring 2 No. 2 pencils and calculators.
$25.00 Test Fee.

To schedule a visit contact the Admissions Office at 708-458-6900 ext. 252 or ext 237

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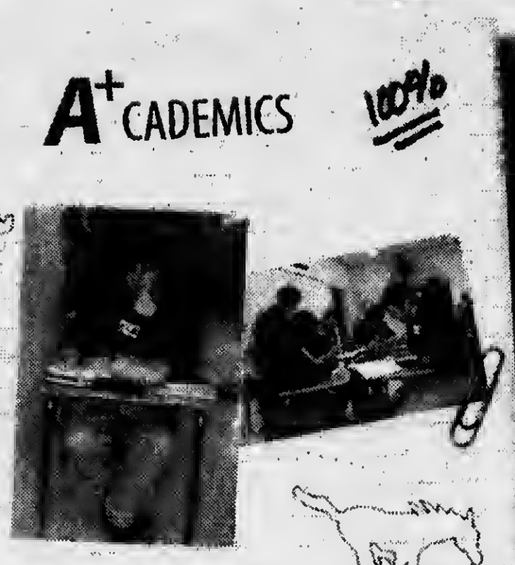

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- St. Rita's Class of 2009 earned over $10.6 Million in Merit-Based College Scholarships.

Schedule a Shadow Day Today!

Register Online
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For More Information Contact
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Director of Admissions
773-925-RITA
cferguson@stritahs.com

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Sunday
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12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Over $900,000 in Financial Aid & Scholarships Awarded Annually!

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A Christmas Carol open at the Civic Opera House for one week only

A stellar cast of show business luminaries, including Academy Award winner F. Murray Abraham, Emmy Award winner and Academy Award nominee James Garner and popular character actors Wayne Knight ("Seinfeld") and George Wendt ("Cheers," Second City) will bring Charles Dickens' beloved tale of miserly Ebenezer Scrooge and his visit from the three Ghosts of Christmas to life on the stage of Chicago's Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Drive, Dec. 22-27. Tickets will go on sale Friday, Oct. 16 at 10 a.m. Stockard Channing and Timothy Hutton will not appear in the production.

This production of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" affords the audience an opportunity to see six beloved, much-admired actors on stage in a production faithful to the original 1943 novella. The dramatic arc of the story — tracing Scrooge from his happy childhood and adolescence to his embittered, miserly adulthood and the magical night that leads him to recognize the true meaning of Christmas —is one of the most satisfying in all literature. The splendor of Chicago's Civic Opera House will be filled with a lavish production featuring beautiful, historically accurate scenery, props and costumes, eye-popping special effects and a supporting cast of twenty-eight.

F. Murray Abraham portrays Ebenezer Scrooge. Abraham was catapulted to superstardom in 1984 for his unforgettable portrayal of Antonio Salieri in Milos Forman's film Amadeus, for which he was honored with the 1985 Academy Award for Best Actor and the Golden Globe for Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Drama. He has appeared in hundreds of roles, both leading and supporting, in films and television. However, Abraham also has focused on stage work throughout his career, giving notable appearances such as "Pozzo" in Mike Nichols' production of "Waiting for Godot." Abraham previously played Scrooge to sellout audiences and rave reviews in the Madison Square Garden production of "A Christmas Carol".

James Garner will bring Charles Dickens to life, and serve as the narrator of this production.

George Wendt portrays various characters in the production. Wendt is best known for his role as Norm Peterson on the television series Cheers. He is a 1975 alumnus of Chicago's Second City. He recently starred in the Broadway musical "Hairspray" as Edna Turnblad. His other stage work includes the Broadway production of "12 Angry Men." His many films and television appearances includencludes "Somewhere in Time," "My Bodyguard," "Airplane II," and "Bye, Bye Birdie."

Wayne Knight portrays the Ghost of Christmas Present. Knight is best known for his role as "Newman" on the television series "Seinfeld." Knight has appeared in many films including a role as "Dennis Nedry" in "Jurassic Park."

Other roles, including The Ghost of Christmas Past, Bob Cratchit and Mrs. Cratchit, will be portrayed by actors to be announced.

"A Christmas Carol" is produced, adapted and directed by Kevin Von Feldt. The design team includes Jeff Hill (sets); Nancy Erickson Dutmer (costumes and choreography); David Neville (lighting) and Maureen Osborne (props). Bryan Ryman is the Design Consultant and Jaroslav Gebr is the Scenic Drop Artist.

The performance schedule is as follows: Tues., Dec. 22 at 7:30 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 23 at 2 and 7:30 p.m.; Thur., Dec. 24 at 2 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 26 at 2 and 7:30 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 27 at 2 and 7:30 p.m. There is no performance on Dec. 25. Tickets, which go on sale Friday, Oct. 16 at 10 a.m., range in price for adults from $17.50 to $67.50. Tickets for children ages 12 or under range in price from $17.50 to $33.75 with the purchase of a full-priced adult ticket; limit two children's tickets per adult ticket. Seniors aged 62 or older save $10 per ticket for the Tues., and Wed. performance. Tickets can be purchased online at www.ticketmaster.com or by calling Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000. Tickets are also available for purchase at the Civic Opera House box office and at all Ticketmaster outlets. Groups of 10 or more, call GroupTix at 877-447-7849.

Cast announced for new Cirque Du Soleil production Banana Shpeel

Stars from Broadway's Jersey Boys and Wicked will join the distinctive cast of comedic and dance talent in the brand new theatrical production, Banana Shpeel, presented by Cirque du Soleil and MSG Entertainment. Banana Shpeel begins performances at The Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State Street , on November 19, 2009 , with an official Opening Night on Wednesday, December 2. The limited Chicago engagement concludes January 3, 2010 , and Banana Shpeel debuts in New York at The Beacon Theatre in February 2010.

Michael Longoria, who starred as Frankie Valli in the Broadway production of Jersey Boys, will portray Emmett, an innocent and romantic young actor, while Annaleigh Ashford, who starred as Glinda in Wicked on Broadway and in Chicago, portrays his love interest Katie, and Remo Airaldi, a prolific resident company member of Boston's acclaimed American Repertory Theater, portrays Schmelky, a cruel and irritable theater producer. Joining them is an international crew of comedic actors: Claudio Carneiro (Brazil), Daniel Passer (U.S.), Patrick de Valette (France), Gordon White (Canada), and Wayne Wilson (U.S.). In keeping with Cirque du Soleil's unique and diverse performers, global talents showcased in Banana Shpeel include Russian hand balancer Dmitry Bulkin, Vietnamese juggler Tuan Le, Spanish foot juggler Vanessa Alvarez, and the American sister-brother tap dance duo, Joseph and Josette Wiggan. Completing the cast is a talented ensemble comprised of 10 "triple threats": singer-actor-dancers Robyn Baltzer, Alex Ellis, Adrienne Jean Fisher, DeWitt Fleming Jr., Luke Hawkins, Kathleen Hennessey, Adrienne Reid, Anthony J. Russo, Melissa Schott, and Steven T. Williams.

Under the direction of Band Leader Robert Cookman, the Banana Shpeel original score is performed live on stage by Roland Barber (trombone), Bobby Brennan (bass), James Campagnola (multi-instrumental), Iohann Laliberté (drums), Jean-François Ouellet (saxophone), Peter Sachon (cello) and Scott Steen (trumpet).

Banana Shpeel is a roller-coaster mix of styles that blends comedy with tap, hip hop, eccentric dance and slapstick, all linked by a narrative that ignites a succession of wacky adventures. This is not circus, or a musical or a variety show, or even vaudeville. It is Banana Shpeel!

Propelled by crazy humor and intense choreography, Banana Shpeel plunges us into the world of Schmelky, who dangles fame and fortune in front of Emmett, who has come to audition for him. Emmett soon finds himself trapped in a flamboyant, anarchic world where Schmelky sows terror and reigns supreme. Emmett falls in love with the beautiful Katie and meets a bunch of absurd characters, including the strange Banana Man. But who is this mysterious Banana Man and how can Emmett escape the clutches of Schmelky and his henchmen?

The Banana Shpeel Creative Team includes: Artistic Guides Guy Laliberté (Cirque du Soleil Founder) and Gilles Ste-Croix; Writer and Director David Shiner; Director of Creation Serge Roy; Composer and Musical Director Jean-François Côté; Comic Act Designer Stefan Haves; Choreographer Jared Grimes; Costume Designer Dominique Lemieux; Set Designer and Props Co-Designer Patricia Ruel; Props Co-Designer Jasmine Catudal; Lighting Designer Bruno Rafie; Sound Designer Harvey Robitaille; and Make-up Designer Eleni Uranis.

Banana Shpeel Writer and Director David Shiner started out as a mime in Paris . His career took off in 1984 when he was discovered at the renowned circus festival Cirque de Demain. Shiner later teamed up with Bill Irwin to create the wordless two-man show Fool Moon, which played from 1992 to 1999, including three Broadway runs. Fool Moon picked up numerous prizes, including a Tony Award, Drama Desk Award and an Outer Critics Circle Award. In 2007, Shiner directed his first Cirque du Soleil production , the big top touring show KOOZA.

Banana Shpeel performs from November 19, 2009 through January 3, 2010 at The Chicago Theatre

Tickets are available now for all performances and can be purchased at www.cirquedusoleil.com or www.thechicagotheatre.com or by calling 1-800-745-3000 . Regular ticket prices range from $23 to $98, with limited Premium and Tapis Rouge VIP Experience tickets also available. Discounts are available for groups of 20 or more, by calling 1-866-6-CIRQUE (1-866-624-7783).

Southwest Symphony Orchestra presents Carnival of the Animals

On Saturday, November 14th the Southwest Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of David L. Crane, presents a program titled Carnival of the Animals. The featured piece will be Carnival of the Animals by Saint-Saens. which will be narrated by Michelle McKenzie-Voigt. Ms. McKenzie-Voigt is a program host for classical music station 98.7 WFMT and an associate television director for WTTW Channel 11, where she works primarily on Chicago tonight, a live nightly news and entertainment program hosted by Phil Ponce. A singer and professional actress, Michelle has sung with the Evanston Symphony Festival Chorus and with the North Shore Choral Society. Recent musical credits include Gypsy (Rose), South Pacific (Nellie Forbush), Pippin (Leading Player), and No, No, Nanette (Lucille). Michelle is a summa cum laude graduate of Northwestern University , where she was a double major in theater and art history. She lives with her husband, son, and 2 dogs in Evanston .

Other pieces to be presented are Overture to Nabucco by Verdi and Symphony No. 5 "Reformation" by Mendelssohn.

The concert is located at Trinity Christian College's Ozinga Auditorium, 6601 West College Drive , Palos Heights .

Concert begins at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday November 14, 2009.

Ticket prices are $5.00 for students, $15.00 to $19.00 for seniors, adults $19.00 to $24.00, children under 12 are free.

Parties of 10 or more may purchase tickets for $10.00 per person.

The not-for-profit Southwest Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1964 and serves audiences throughout the south and southwest suburban communities. Learn more at southwestsymphony.com or call 708-802-0686 for more information.

McKenzie-Voigt is set to narrate the up coming concert Carnival of the Animals

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Hometown-Murray VFW Ladies Auxiliary

Veterans Health Fair- Saturday, October 31st., 9am till Noon at the Hometown-Murray VFW, 9092 Main St. Hometown, IL.. FREE Blood Pressure, Glucose, Cholesterol Screenings and Flu shots(NOT HRN1) Veterans bring your DD214's (discharge papers) or proof of service. Stateside and Overseas vets are welcome. Healthcare workers from Jesse Brown Veterans Healthcare Center will be on hand to administer the shots and tests. This is also your opportunity to register in the veterans healthcare system. Have questions about your rights? We can help.

Female Veterans are Welcome-Refreshments will be served!

Hometown-Murray VFW Ladies Auxiliary is having a Vendors/Arts & Crafts Fair, Sunday, November 8th., 9am till 3pm at the Post home, 9092 Main St., Hometown, IL. Avon, Tupperware, Premier Jewelry, Interior Design. Usborne Children Books, The Pampered Chef, Tastefully Simple, purses, candles, and original art work, are only a few of the many vendors on display. Food will be available for purchase. For more info call Gail-708-422-2254.

Proceeds to benefit the Ladies Auxiliary's many charitable programs.

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Far South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 20 October 20, 2009

Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin has invited the community to make ornaments for the village's tree in front of the Frederick T. Owens Village Hall, 14700 South Ravinia Avenue . Ornaments must be delivered to the Village Hall by 5:00 p.m. on November 13. The mayor will light the village's tree on Sunday, November 29 at 5:45 p.m., officially beginning the holiday season in Orland Park.

Green Ornaments Sought for Orland Park's Community Tree

The color green in Orland Park this holiday season means more than one half of the traditional red and green.

Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin has invited the community to provide "green" ornaments for the village's community Christmas tree in front of the Village Hall.

"We're carrying the village's green initiative into the holiday season," McLaughlin said, "We're inviting the entire community to make ornaments for the village's tree, incorporating this year's theme, 'Orland Park Goes Green'."

Ornaments must be durable and weatherproof for use outdoors for at least twelve weeks in wet and wintry conditions. They should be decorated with colorful materials that, if possible, are reflective. To minimize environmental impact, ornament makers are encouraged to use wood or recycled materials.

"This is a great way to let the younger members of the community be an active part of the village's green initiative, Smart Living Orland Park," said Trustee Kathy Fenton . "Many of these kids have grown up with recycling as a way of life and it just makes sense to use something that would normally go into the recycle bin to make a beautiful ornament for Orland Park 's tree," she added.

Ornaments should be eight to ten inches in size, light weight and light in color, relatively simple in design so they can be enjoyed from a distance. They must be ready for hanging with a ten inch loop of 20 gauge (coat hanger weight) wire attached to the top corners. Ornament makers are encouraged to add their name, organization and the year on the backs of the ornaments they create. Those made of glass or other breakable materials cannot be accepted.

Creations should be delivered to the Frederick T. Owens Village Hall, 14700 South Ravinia Avenue , by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 13 so that Parks Department employees can add them to the tree. Ornament donors will be asked to leave their names, organizations, addresses and email addresses for future community projects and events.

McLaughlin will officially begin the holiday season in Orland Park on Sunday, November 29 at 5:45 p.m. when he lights the village's tree at the close of the Winter Festival.

"We're hoping that all of our ornament makers come to the Village Hall on November 29th when we light the community's tree so they can see what a beautiful display they helped to create," McLaughlin said.

Ornaments should be delivered to the information desk in the lobby of the Village Hall, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Further information is available by calling 708/403-6140.

Oak Forest Police Department will outfit five squads with video cameras

The Oak Forest City Council has approved a measure allowing the Oak Forest Police Department to outfit five of its squad cars with video cameras. "These cameras will enhance the way we patrol by providing an unbiased and accurate account of what happens on each and every traffic stop or call," said Lieutenant Michael Shaughnessy.

"In terms of evidence, it's important to show what really happened at a scene." The video capture and management system includes five in-car video cameras, video storage equipment, and flashlight video cameras that allow officers to point and shoot the scene and illuminate it for better video quality. According to Information Technology Director Tom Rieman, one of the system's most useful features is the capability to wirelessly transfer video from the squad car to the in-house server.

"All the officers have to do is park their squads in the department's parking lot, the automated download system takes care of the rest," Rieman said

"The video is safely transferred on a homeland security high speed channel, which is ideal for law enforcement purposes." Ultimately, the department plans on equipping its entire fleet with the video cameras over the next few years.

Final traffic enforcement campaign yields 157 citations

Department receives another grant to continue to promote traffic safety Oak Forest, Illinois – From August 20 through September 7, the Oak Forest Police Department issued 157 tickets as part of a traffic enforcement campaign funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation's Integrated Mini-Grant Enforcement program. While most of the tickets were issued for speeding, other offenses included driving while under the influence, not wearing seat belts, lack of insurance, and suspended or revoked driving statutes.

"Our main goal is to make our streets safer for drivers and pedestrians," said Lieutenant Michael Shaughnessy. "Campaigns like these help us reinforce to drivers how important it is to drive responsibly." The campaign was the final in a five-part program to promote traffic safety by conducting saturation patrols in pre-assigned areas.

A post-grant survey shows that seat belt compliance in the city has dipped slightly below the state average of 91 percent. According to Shaughnessy, the Police Department will step up enforcement efforts during the next campaign, which will begin in November. "Just like before, we'll be encouraging motorists to drive safely," Shaughnessy said. "In particular, we'll be looking to make sure motorists are wearing their seat belts, staying within the speed limit, and driving while sober."

The department has received a $40,000 grant to conduct an additional five campaigns. The grant money will pay for officers' salaries and vehicle expenses during the campaign

Cell Phone Collection for Crisis Center

The Fire Department of Orland Park will collect used cell phones for the Crisis Center for South Suburbia during the month of October in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Donations of old cell phones will help raise funds for the Crisis Center for South Suburbia. For fire station drop-off locations in Orland Park call 708-873-2718.

The Crisis Center for South Suburbia's mission is to provide emergency shelter and essential services for victims of domestic violence.

Visit www.crisisctr.org for more information on the Crisis Center for South Suburbia, ways to support its mission, and the services it provides.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 20

October 20, 2009

The Center in Palos Park is the place to be

At the Haunted Farm October 23 & 24 from 6:30 to 8:30, there will be Scary Family Fun. We'll scare the stuffing out of you! Please see our coupon below.

Mark your calendar for November's Art Show November 15, from Noon until 4:30. Art students and instructors will show and sell their beautiful work. Come see photos, paintings, pottery, woodcarvings and more.

Coupon for our Haunted Farm: It's scary fun. $1.00 OFF ANY PAID ADMISSION WITH THIS COUPON. BRING THIS PAGE WITH YOU! HAUNTED FARM OCTOBER 23RD AND 24TH. ADVANCE TICKETS REQUIRED 708-361-3650.

The Children's Farm
The Center
12700 Southwest Hwy.
Palos Park, IL

SouthWest Special Recreation Association looking for kids in the kitchen

Kids in the Kitchen South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA) is looking for individuals who like to dabble in the kitchen. The program, Kids in the Kitchen, teaches early childhood and youths with special needs how to utilize kitchen tools, encourages healthy eating, kitchen safety and proper table manners. At the end of each class, participants will sample their creations. The program runs on Saturdays from 10:00 am – 10:45 am and begins October 24th. Classes will be held at the Worth Community Center located at 10707 Oak Park Ave. The fee is $26 for residents and $52 for non-residents. Please contact the SWSRA office at (708) 389-9423 if you would like to sign up or would like more information. SWSRA is a non-profit organization located in Alsip that provides recreation services for individuals with special needs.

Palos Township Health and Resource Fair

Palos Township Health Service will be hosting a Health and Resource Fair on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Palos Township, 10802 S. Roberts Road, Palos Hills, Illinois.

The Palos Lions Club will be sponsoring a hearing screening free of charge, EMB Medical Supply will be providing services for diabetic/ arthritis protective footwear. Medicare billing will be offered for these services if eligible. Educational information will be provided by the Illinois Breast Cancer Awareness Center. Essential Chiropractic Health Center will be offering spinal screenings along with chair massages. Crestwood Care Centre will make available information on excellence in senior care programs, including Alzheimer's care, Bariatric care, cancer care and cardiac rehab. Osco Drug will offer pneumonia shots, flu shots and shingles shots for a fee and will bill Medicare if eligible. The Palos Township Health Service will offer fasting blood sugars and blood pressure screenings.

In addition, a representative from CEDA Southwest Development Association will be taking applications for LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program). To obtain information regarding requirements for the Energy Assistance Program please contact CEDA at (708) 458-2736.

Shred-It, a mobile shredding service will be shredding documents on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, between 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Drop- offs are limited to 4 Banker boxes (10 x 12x 24).

Illinois Treasurer Alexi Giannoulis will sponsor Cash Dash for residents to check for unclaimed property. Staff will be available to search for the results the day of the Health and Resource Fair, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Cook County will sponsor the Medication Take-Back Program. This service will allow residents an opportunity to bring old medication items from private households to be disposed of properly. Use a permanent marker to black out your name or personal information on the prescription label. Take medications to the collection site only during the drop-off site's open house. Only give the medications to personnel of the drop-off site. Please follow the directions at the drop-off site carefully. This is not a SHARE OR REUSE opportunity. All medications received will be destroyed in an environmentally responsible manner.

Acceptable items Unacceptable items

· (Expired or unwanted medications)

·Sharps/needles DEA-controlledsubstances,including Prescriptions medications narcotic medications and illegal

·Over-the counter medications drugs

·Medicated ointments Bio-hazardous materials

·Medicated shampoos Radioactive materials

·Liquids containing medications Other household wastes

·Prescription inhalers

·Over-the counter inhalers

· Glass thermometers containing mercury

(blood pressure units, barometers, etc.)

For information contact 598-4418.

Bella Voce, "the always-adventuresome a cappella group," according to the Chicago *Sun-Times*, will perform as part of the *WorldView* series at Trinity Christian College on Monday, October 26, at 7 p.m. in the Ozinga Chapel.

An a Cappella Experience: Bella Voce Performs

Bella Voce, "the always-adventuresome a cappella group," according to the Chicago Sun-Times, will perform as part of the WorldView series at Trinity Christian College on Monday, October 26, at 7 p.m. in the Ozinga Chapel.

This free event will inspire, entertain, and educate the audience through Bella Voce's choral chamber music. The group performs classic a cappella repertoire, early American music, and contemporary music from all over the world.

Andrew Lewis is the artistic director of Bella Voce. Lewis also directs numerous other musical ensembles, including the Janus Ensemble and the Elgin Choral Union. He is on the conducting faculty of the University of Illinois at Chicago and has been a guest lecturer at Concordia University Chicago.

Please contact Beth Decker, WorldView director, at 708.293.4908 or beth.decker@trnty.edu.

Home Energy Assistance Program

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to assist eligible low-income households pay for winter energy services, in the form of one-time payments to utility companies that are applied directly to the household's energy bills.

Application for seniors(age 60 and older) and residents with disabilities will be taken at the Palos Township Health and Resource Fair to be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, from 9:00 a.m.to 4:00 p.m. at Palos Township, 10802 S. Roberts Road, Palos Hills, Illinois.

Income guidelines and documents needed to apply for the program are available by contacting CEDA, Southwest Development Association at 708-458-2736.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

B-MAC EDITION

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 20

October 20, 2009

Pappas names Catherine Walker honorary deputy

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas presents an award of excellence in her office to Catherine Walker, 99 years old, and names her as an honorary Cook County deputy treasurer. Walker, a resident at the The Pointe at Kilpatrick, a senior living center in Crestwood, is known as "the nursing home dynamo volunteer." Walker spends more than 40 hours a week volunteering for the center.

At 18 she had polio and was told by the doctors that she'd never walk again. She proved them wrong. She worked for about 20 years at a radio factory, made gas masks during World War II and led a successful walkout over low wages. Treasurer Pappas commended her for making a difference in the lives of many.

Annette Picks for Theatre in October

Top on my list is **Animal Crackers** at the Goodman Theatre extended to Nov.-ember 1st. This two hour forty minutes play is worth every dollar spent. The new material overrides the original 1928 script, but there are still the old jokes and bundle of laughs.

Don't forget Mezztix are half price mezzanine tickets available at 12 noon at the box office and at 10:00 am online (promo code MEZZTIX) the day of performance. Great price for the whole family.

Lucinda's Bed playing at the Chicago Dramatists until Novemer 8th. Lucinda makes friends with a monster and her whole life changes. Elizabeth Laidlaw has a extraordinary role and excels in this play. The set designer is outstanding and the cast is marvelous interacting with one another using maneuvers unseen in any other production. Only 90 minutes without an intermission at the Chicago Dramatists, 1105 West Chicago Ave. box office 312-633-0630, www.chicago dramatists.org

The House on Mango Street at Steppenwolf is a family production at Steppenwolf. Twice a year there is a special Young Adults Production. The Chicago Public School and the Metropolitan area schools join Steppenwolf by working together with an educational and full scale professional production in order to enhance young audiences and engage high school students for a professional career in the theatre arts.

The House on Mango Street was outstanding with young actors and can be seen until November 8th by calling 312-335-1650.

Stray Dog Productions presents "Proof" Dates: Oct. 23 - Nov. 1 Fri. and Sat. at 8 PM, Sun. at 2 PM Location: Veterans Memorial Middle School 12320 Greenwood Ave. Blue Island, Illinois Tickets: Adults- $12.00 Seniors/Students-$10.00 Box Office: 708- 841-7396 NOTE: Adult themes and language. Not suitable for small children.

Night of the Spirits Cornerstone Gallery 13168 Olde Western Avenue Blue Island Saturday, October 24, 2009 5Pm - 11PM, with resident Artists: Paulette Stobinske, Charles Anderson Tara Banfield-Lucas, Diana Godbout & Bridget Scales

Lookingglass Theatre presented September 30 through November 15, the world premiere of Lookingglass original play. **Fedra: Queen of Haiti** is written by and featuring ensemble member J. Nicole Brooks and directed by ensemble member Laura Eason.

Tickets are available on www.lookingglasstheatre.org or by phone 312-337-0665, or at the LookingGlass Theatre box office, located inside Chicago's historic Water Tower Water Works, 821 North Michigan Ave. at Pearson. Limited amount of half price rush tickets availability two hours before curtain.

Alsip approves resolution regarding record keeping

The village board approved an ordinance at the Oct. 5 Alsip Board of Trustees meeting for the vacation of a certain portion of Orchard Street in the village. A resolution regarding bond related record-keeping policy for the village was also approved.

A contract with Davis Concrete for $13,690, the lowest bidder for the 2009 sidewalk replacement program, was approved as well as a contract for $396,600 with Trio Mechanical Service Group of Sugar Grove to furnish and install two Weil McLain UG-310 boilers at Heritage 11 Senior Apartments. A request from the Church of the Virgin Mary for an extension of a temporary trailer until November 30 was also approved.

The board approved forwarding a request for a zoning change and a hearing for T. Crowne Holdings, for property at 12245 and 12299 S. Pulaski Avenue. The request would change the zoning from B-1 to B-3 which would allow the sale of package liquor and establish the maximum hours of operation. The board also approved forwarding a request from Edward T. McGowan of Edon Construction at 5420 W. 122nd Street to the planning and zoning commission for a review and hearing regarding a text amendment in a 1-2 district for a Special Use in a B-2 District.

Over $12,000 Raised for Calumet-Sag Trail Development

"The Friends of the Calumet-Sag Trail raised $12,000 Friday night, October 2, at the first-ever "Happy Trails Jamboree," held at Lake Katherine Nature Preserve in Palos Heights, for the 32-mile south suburban trail. Awarded federal trail grants will match each dollar 4-to-1, ultimately raising $60,000 for the design of signage and amenities along the entire length of the trail.

Despite the cool temperatures and persistent drizzle, the Happy Trails Jamboree, billed as the Southland's "rootinest-tootinest fund raising event ever," attracted more than 160 trail supporters with its Wild West theme and overall purpose – to raise funding for the trail and promote its Triple Bottom Line benefits – which include increased economic activity, expanded options for active living, and reduced impact on the environment.

"I think people really responded to having their donation matched by federal trail grants," said Bob Lukens, president of the all-volunteer Friends of the Calumet-Sag Trail. "The return for your contribution - an amazing trail you can ride from almost the Indiana line to Lemont, and all the Triple Bottom Line benefits for the communities in between - goes way beyond what Wall Street can offer you these days."

The funds raised at the Jamboree will be donated by the non-profit Friends of the Calumet-Sag Trail to the City of Blue Island , the lead agency in a multi-jurisdictional agreement to produce a wayfinding and trail amenities plan for the entire Calumet-Sag Trail. In June, the Friends of the Calumet-Sag Trail partnered with Rails to Trails Conservancy and The Coca-Cola Company to award $35,000 to Blue Island for the project. Including funds from the Jamboree, the Friends have raised more than $47,000 for the Calumet-Sag Trail, which matches $188,000 in federal trail grants. The total cost of the wayfinding and amenities plan will be approximately $260,000.

Both a silent auction and a live auction, featuring George Mitchell of Mitchell's Flowers in Orland Park as auctioneer, supplemented money raised from Jamboree ticket sales and a raffle for a $1000 Trek Soho bicycle, courtesy of Rbikes.com in Palos Heights and the Trek Bicycle Corporation, and won by Jeaninne Groman.

The Happy Trails Jamboree was produced by Friends of the Calumet-Sag Trail volunteers with major contributions from Active Transportation Alliance , the City of Palos Heights , the Alsip Park District, and Lake Katherine Nature Preserve.

Friends of the Calumet-Sag Trail is a membership-based, 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to advocate and raise funding for the Calumet-Sag Trail and promote its Triple Bottom Line benefits to the region. Information on the Calumet-Sag Trail and joining the Friends is available at http://calsagtrail.org, or email friends@calsagtrail.org.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

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VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 36 Number 9 November 3, 2009

McAuley Students earn Marching Band Accolades

Mother McAuley students (left to right) Danielle Honings of Clearing, Armi Grace Cortes of Bridgeview, Kate Davis of Evergreen Park, Rachel Solis of Lemont and Mary McClorey of Mt. Greenwood are members of the Brother Rice/Mother McAuley Band. The Band is a competitive marching unit in the fall months as well as a performance group for Brother Rice home football games. Members of the Competition Band perform in area contests along with the St. Laurence/Queen of Peace Band under the direction of P.J. Henning. Recently, the Competition Band placed 1st in the Drum Major and the Winds Division at the St. Rita Mustang Stampede, and 1st in the Visual, Percussion, and Drum Major Divisions at the Stagg Jamboree.

Catholic Charities' "Compassion in Action" Benefit Supports Emergency Assistance Programs

Southland Medical Professionals to be Honored

Catholic Charities' South Region will celebrate its 6th Annual "Compassion in Action" Benefit Dinner-Dance on Saturday, November 7, 2009 at Villa de Bruno, 19825 Stony Island Avenue in Lynwood, Ill.

Sponsored by Catholic Charities' South Region Advisory Board, the "Compassion in Action Dinner Dance," opens with a reception at 6:30 p.m.; dinner at 7:30 p.m.; and dancing until midnight. Award presentations and a silent auction will round out the program.

Tickets are $65 per person. Reservations may be sent to Catholic Charities, 16100 Seton Drive, South Holland, IL 60473. For more information about the "Compassion in Action" benefit, call Fred Shannon, Catholic Charities South Region Representative at (708) 333-8379 ext. 222.

The event will benefit Catholic Charities' extensive emergency services in the South Region for struggling, low-income families, children, seniors, and individuals in need of professional social services or basic human necessities such as food, clothing and shelter.

Southland Honorees

Each year, Catholic Charities honors individuals or groups who have significantly alleviated the distress of their neighbors in need and have generously provided help and hope to them and their families.

This year's recipients of "The Compassion in Action Award" are all medical professionals who have assisted at the annual Health Fair at St. Anne Parish in Hazel Crest. Three of the honorees hail from Chicago's "Southland:"

John Michael Herbick, D.O. of Evergreen Park and Most Holy Redeemer Parish is a doctor of osteopathic medicine, and a member of the Catholic Charities Board of Advisors. Dr. Herbick chairs Catholic Charities' Medical Council that plans for the number and scope of health fairs to be conducted each season.

Mrs. Katharine H. Shannon of Evergreen Park and Most Holy Redeemer Parish has coordinated physician and nursing stations at each regional health fair since Catholic Charities began conducting them in 2000. Mrs. Shannon has received donations of new medical equipment and supplies for Catholic Charities' health fairs; she arranges for their storage and prepares them for use during the health fair season. She also recruits several nurses, dentists and physician-specialists i.e. ophthalmologists, podiatrists and internists to help at the health fairs each year.

J. Paul O'Keefe, M.D. of Lake Forest is a clinical microbiologist who researches clinical infectious diseases, particularly conditions occurring as a result of medical progress. A member of the Catholic Charities Board of Advisors and a founder of the health fairs during the summer of 2000, Dr. O'Keefe brings a number of the Loyola medical residents to work with him at each of the fairs.

Thomas L. Waidzunas, M.D. of Palos Heights (Incarnation Parish) specializes in family practice medicine. A member of the Catholic Charities Board of Advisors, Dr. Waidzunas helped found the Medical Council and the summer neighborhood health fairs.

All four honorees exemplify the qualities manifested by the Compassion in Action Award; a cooperative spirit and a willingness to help. Catholic Charities is privileged to have their support.

Veteran's Day Service

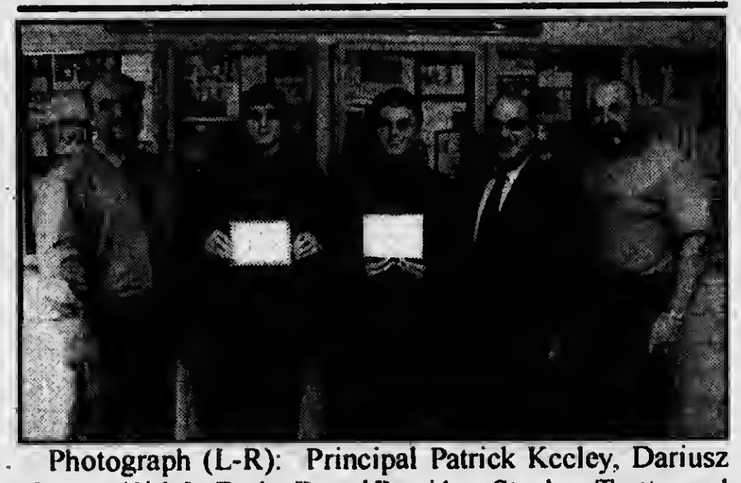
On Sunday, November 8, Burbank Manor Presbyterian Church will host a Veteran's Day service of worship at 10:00 a.m. The service will consist of the posting of colors by VFW Unit #177, the recognition of all Veterans present, the recognition of all family and friends who have a family currently in service. Music will feature patriotic hymns and national anthems. Dr. David Neff, pastor, will preach on "Find the Cost of Freedom." After the retiring of the colors, there will be a special coffee hour in honor of our veterans. There will also be a display of memorabilia in the Fireplace Room.

All veterans are invited to join us and participate in this service of remembrance and thanksgiving. Veterans are invited to wear their uniform, and bring their unit flags, colors and other memorabilia.

The church is located at 7950 S. Central Avenue. For more information, please contact the church office at (708) 424-7181 or visit the church website at: bmpcusa.org.

Evergreen Park Community High School Honors Veterans!

Evergreen Park veterans are invited to a Veterans Day Breakfast and Program on Tuesday, November 10, 2009, at 7:30 a.m. at Evergreen Park Community High School, hosted by the National Honor Society. The breakfast and program are planned to honor the Evergreen Park residents who are U.S. Military Veterans for their service to our country during war or peacetime. Those who wish to attend should call Mr. Ben Nesler at 708/398-1352 as soon as possible.



Photograph (L-R): Principal Patrick Keeley, Dariusz Hareza, Kirk LaBuda, Board President Stephen Trotto, and Board Vice-President Mike Federico.

National Merit Scholarship Commended Students

Oak Lawn Community High School

The Principal, Mr. Patrick Keeley, of Oak Lawn Community High School recognized Kirk W. LaBuda (Bridgeview) and Dariusz A. Hareza (Oak Lawn) for being named Commended Students in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, was presented to the students at a recent board of education meeting.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2010 competition for Merit Scholarship® awards, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2010 competition by taking the 2008 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).

"Recognition of high-achieving students is essential to advancing educational excellence in our nation," commented a spokesperson for NMSC. "As demonstrated by their outstanding performance in our highly competitive program, the young men and women named Commended Students represent some of the most academically talented students in our country. We sincerely hope this recognition will enhance their educational opportunities and encourage them in their pursuit of academic success."

In addition to being members of the National Honor Society, Dariusz and Kirk are actively involved in the school's extracurricular programs and competitive academic events such as Chess, Mathletes, and Scholastic Bowl.

Smith Senior Living switches to Electronic Medical Records

Smith Senior Living, sponsor of Smith Crossing in Orland Park, Ill. and Smith Village in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood, has been at the vanguard of caring for residents for more than eight decades. Most recently, it is a leader among retirement communities as it converts to using electronic medical records, also known as EMR.

In 2006, the federal government challenged all healthcare organizations to switch from paper records to computer files by 2014. And in 2007, Smith Senior Living was among the first retirement communities to launch a plan to revolutionize the way it manages residents' healthcare records.

"Our EMR system improves service to our residents by managing information about their well-being and medical needs even more efficiently and accurately," says Michael A. Flynn, chief executive officer at Smith Senior Living. "EMR ultimately frees our nurses and nurses' aides to spend more time with our residents, providing the level of personal care that is a hallmark of our communities."

As a trailblazer among senior living communities, Smith communities are integrating EMR into their residents' healthcare management. Craig Hanenburg, chief information officer for Smith Senior Living, and Jill Smazik, RN, electronic medical records coordinator and clinical trainer, are often asked to present at national and regional conferences. They share Smith's model for technical implementation and staff training in order to help other retirement communities that are exploring ways to embrace EMR practices.

"We're only in year two of a five-year process, and our new EMR system already improves service to our skilled nursing care and assisted living residents," says Hanenburg. "By entering information as care is given, we can see patterns and trends almost as they occur. EMR reports enhance our ability to identify special needs and situations much earlier.

"Electronic medical records also are important because they increase accuracy and efficiency. They will become even more valuable as the healthcare community adapts to using EMR," says Hanenburg.

"In 2014, when most hospitals are fully electronic, the medical records of residents in Smith communities who require medical care can be sent in an instant to their hospital and physicians, helping them to make fully informed decisions much more quickly," Hanenburg adds.

By the end of 2009, Smith's EMR software system will automatically alert the staff to the possibilities of dangerous drug interactions; flag atypical medication dosages; and confirm that the drugs are being administered on the correct schedule.

Currently, nurses at Smith Village and Smith Crossing use the HealthMEDX system to document electronically all of their daily notes for residents in skilled nursing care, assisted living and Alzheimer's/Memory Support areas. Nurses' aides use touch screens to document assistance with residents' activities of daily living, as well as to record vital signs including blood pressure, temperature, weight and other critical dataAdditionally at Smith Crossing, charting by social service, occupational therapy, physical therapy, dietary and wound care specialists are included in a resident's electronic file. At Smith Village, staff members in these areas are in training for electronic charting.

"The end result of electronic medical records is a more efficient, accurate, documentation system," says Mary Ann Doyle, director of nursing at Smith Crossing, which has been working in the EMR system for a year and a half. "Although it took time for training, using EMR is now second nature to our team."

"Smith Senior Living has invested hundreds of hours of staff time in planning and training for the transition to EMR," says coordinator/trainer Smazik. "We want everyone on the team to be completely comfortable with the new system so that residents see the benefits immediately. We are gratified by how the healthcare and social services teams are embracing this new system."

For more information about how Smith Senior Living can help seniors enjoy their retirement, call Smith Crossing in Orland Park, at 708-326-2300 or visit smithcrossing.org. For Smith Village in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood, call 773-474-7300 or visit smithvillage.org.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Public Works installs generators in water pumping stations

The Public Works Department has installed generators in its main waterpumping station and its south and west booster stations to ensure that it can continue to pump water across the city without interruption in the event of power loss.

"These generators ensure that we can keep our residents' faucets running even in emergency situations," said Public Works Director Troy Ishler. "If we lose power for any reason, we're prepared to continue pumping water to our residents."

The need for back-up generators became apparent last year during a major storm that knocked out power across town. After losing water pressure, Ishler was about to issue a boil order to residents when emergency crews restored pressure by installing a portable generator.

"It was a close call," Ishler said. "We were lucky to find a portable generator on suchshort notice. It's nice to know that we now have a back-up system in place."

The capital improvement project, which cost $197,000 , nearly $30,000 under budget, was funded through a water and sewer bond fund issue.

Nicor Gas and Jewel-Osco Unite to Help with Heating Assistance

Nicor Gas announced its continued partnership with Jewel-Osco today to help families in need with their heating bills this winter season. When customers at any Jewel-Osco in Illinois make a purchase on the dates listed below, five percent of their total bill will go to the Sharing Program, which is administered by the Salvation Army and provides financial assistance to people who need help with their heating bills. Jewel-Osco shoppers can participate by simply presenting a Shop & Share Coupon to the cashier at the time of their purchases.

"Together we can help families in need by simply conducting our regular shopping activity and presenting a coupon on any of the nine Shop and Share days," said Claudia Colalillo Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Corporate Philanthropy for Nicor Gas & Nicor Inc. "With many families in need of help with energy costs this winter, the Sharing Program is one more option for them to turn to for help."

Coupons are available on the company's Web site at www.nicorgas.com and also in the Energy Spotlight Newsletter which was mailed to Nicor Gas customers in their latest billing statement. Customers who would like to help can simply cut out the coupons and present them to a Jewel-Osco cashier on any of the following dates:

November: Monday the 2nd – Wednesday the 4th, Monday the 9th – Wednesday the 11th, Monday 16th – Wednesday 18th.

The Sharing Program is made up of contributions from Nicor Gas customers and employees that are matched up to $175,000 annually by Nicor Gas. The program provides households one-time annual grants of up to $450 to help pay their natural gas bills. To qualify, household monthly income may not exceed 200 percent of the federally established poverty level.

Sharing Program applicants must apply in-person at Salvation Army offices. For a list of Salvation Army offices, call 1-888-Nicor4U (1-888-642-6748) or visit the Nicor Gas website at www.nicorgas.com

Military News

Air Force Airman 1st Class James M. Anderson and Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Maggie K. Ric graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The two airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

He is the son of Karol Anderson of W. 163rd Place, Tinley Park, Ill., and Paul Anderson of N. 25th St., Colorado Springs, Colo. Anderson is also a 2004 graduate of Maine West High School, Des Plaines, Ill.

She is the daughter of Joe Cronin and Susan Graham of S. 55th Court, Oak Lawn, Ill. Rice is aslo a 2004 graduate of Oak Lawn High School.

Army Pfc. Joseph Fornino III has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission and received instruction and training exercises in drill and ceremonies, Army history, core values and traditions, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, rifle marksmanship, weapons use, map reading and land navigation, foot marches, armed and unarmed combat, and field maneuvers and tactics.

Fornino is the grandson of Theresa Fornino of W. 90th Place, Hometown, Ill.

He is a 1999 graduate of John F. Kennedy High School, Chicago, Ill.

M. Anderson

Maggie K. Rice

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As part of the Economic Stimulus plan, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 modifies and extends federal tax credits for "qualified energy efficient improvements" which include windows, and doors up to an aggregate limit of $1,500 for tax years 2009 and 2010.

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You will easily know what to do with Parsley-salads, lavender-potpourri, Dill-cucumbers, Thyme-soup, Cilantro-salsa, Basil-tomato salad. Common herbs in our garden that we may overlook their uses are: Tarragon/ Mugwort, Lemon Balm, Mint, Sage, Rosemary, Oregano, and Marjoram. Dry your herbs naturally so the potency concentrates.

Plants have a personality of purpose useful through taste, smell, touch, sight, and even sound through vibration of simply being alive....think of Dracula with the garlic!

Herbs are usually green leafy plants while spices are usually brown dried fruits/nuts/or seeds of plants. Essential Oils are the result of cold pressed fresh herbs, the concentrated denatured juice. Working with Herbs & Oils is an ancient art worth learning and passing down to those interested.

In our "Herbs & Oils Class" at Blissful Spa, we teach you the "What", the "How", and the "Why" on working with herbs and oils. Contact Sharon at www.myblissfulspa.com or 708-717-8130

Get in the spirit of Christmas by holiday shopping at Smith Village

Find a wide variety of unique gift items for family and friends when you "Shop at the Village," a Christmas shopping event being held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 9, at Smith Village at 2320 W. 113th Place.

There will be a full range of merchandise to choose from and the public is welcome to join residents in getting an early start to their Christmas shopping. Among area retailers setting up shop at the continuing care retirement community are

All Too Tempting—holiday cookies, bite-sized treats and orders for gingerbread houses

Avon Products- familiar and new products from Avon.

Because I Like It—purses, jewelry, scarves and other items

Beverly's Pantry—novelty kitchen and food Items

The Blossom Boys—novelty and floral items

Camey's Country Kitchen—wooden personalized ornaments

The Enterprising Kitchen—soaps, body oils and candles

The Heritage Gallery—note cards and small framed works of art

My Sister's Knits—yarn, tools and other items for knitting and crocheting

Smith Village—"Life on the Ridge" murals by artist Jack Simmerling

Steuber's Florist—potted plants and orders for renowned poinsettias

"This will be a special shopping experience," says Amanda Senerchia, associate executive director of Smith Village. "There are so many great gifts, but none of the crowds and hassles. People who like to complete their shopping before the holiday rush begins surely will find many gifts perfect for family and friends on their lists."

Orland offers flu vaccine

Orland Township will be offering flu vaccine this year and clinics are scheduled as follows: Orland Township Activity Center 15100 S. 94th Ave., Orland Park, Nov. 4, 2009. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., children only. November 5, 2009, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Flu shots are recommended for persons of all ages, and those who are suffering from any chronic disease, including asthma, bronchitis, cystic fibrosis, emphysema and tuberculosis. Persons suffering from diabetes and chronic heart disease should also be immunized.

Flu shots will be given free of charge to Orland Township residents who are under 19 years of age at the children's vaccination clinic on November 4, 2009 at Orland Township Activity Center from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Flu shots are not recommended for persons allergic to chicken eggs; for those with sensitivity to Thimerasol, a preservative; or those with a history of previous reactions.

There will be a $20.00 charge for all residents over the age of 19 years, living in Tinley Park, Orland Hills, Orland Park, and unincorporated Orland Township. Persons over the age of 65 with Medicare Part B (HMO's not accepted) will be able to receive the immunization free of charge, as long as their Medicare Part B card is presented at the clinic.

For further information, please call Orland Township at (708) 403-4222. Office hours are from Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Open Mic Night in Palos

Open Mic Night is back at the Palos Park Public Library on Wednesday, November 4th at 7:00 pm. This program is free and opened to all writers, poets, and fans of the written word. The mic is opened to readers for the first half of the program followed by feature reader, Wayne Allen Jones. Sign up for the mic begins at 7:00 pm. Call the library for any questions at (708) 448-1530. The library is located at 12330 Forest Glen Blvd. in Palos Park.

Palos Focused on Health Education

The Palos Health & Fitness Center will present a series of educational and interactive topics in 2009 at the Orland Township Activity Center, 15100 S. 94th Ave., Orland Park, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to receive tips from professionals about improving your health and changing your lifestyle. The series is geared towards adults who want to improve their health by changing their habits through exercise and healthy eating.

On November 9, 2009 the center will hold a seminar regarding eating strategies for new exercisers. Beginning an exercise program or starting back up again can make it tough to know how to eat for new activity. Learn how to fuel your body with the energy that it needs to stay active and also how to stay in the right caloric balance. Palos Health & Fitness Center's registered dietitian Eileen Connelly will teach healthy eating strategies for a fit, healthy and active lifestyle.

Please call the Orland Township office at 708-403-4222 to register for one, two or all three sessions or for more information. Refreshments will be served.

Hometown Murray to hold Veterans Day Ceremony

Hometown-Murray VFW and Ladies Auxiliary #9773 is having a Veterans Day Ceremony; Wednesday, November 11th, 2009 at 11am at the Veterans Memorial in Patterson Park, 8870 S Pulaski Rd. Hometown, IL. Everyone is invited to come out and remember all who have served our country.

Owners and Mangers of Restaurants, Banquets Halls, Deli's, Caters, Call Linda for details on Advertising your business for the Holidays, 312-624-8996

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Veterans' Day activities planned at MoraineValley

Moraine Valley Community College will salute veterans during its Veterans' Week Celebration, Nov. 10-12, on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy, Palos Hills.

The college is celebrating Veterans' Day through three days of activities. Marine Corps student vets will carry on the Marine Corps' 234th birthday through various traditions on Nov. 10 from 11 a.m. to noon in the Student Union. Refreshments will be served.

On Veterans' Day, Nov. 11, there will be a color guard ceremony followed by a campus-wide moment of silence at 11:11 a.m. The movie "Band of Brothers" will be shown and refreshments will be available. All these activities will commence in the Student Union starting at 11 a.m. and end at 1:30 p.m

The celebratory week will conclude with a Veterans' Panel Discussion: "A Look Back and a Look Forward." Local veterans from WWII to current conflicts in the Middle East will each discuss their experiences and how they differ through the generations. The panel will run from noon to 2 p.m. in Building M.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information contact Debbie Wills at (708) 974-5759 or willsd6@morainevalley.edu.

Worth Park District has fun for all

Come and learn the basics at this genealogy roundtable discussion with Author Grace Dumelle sponsored by the Worth Park District's Historical Museum. Learn the challenges of searching for Windy City relations, such as address and street name changes and scores of unindexed newspapers and other resources. This discussion will take place on Wednesday, November 4 from 7:00 – 8:00 PM at the Park District.

Boys and girls can gear up and learn the basics of basketball in this fundamental program at the Worth Park District. In this class simple fundamental skills will be taught. Each participant will learn the basics of dribbling, passing, shooting, offense and defense. Games will be played at the end of the session. This program runs on Wednesdays starting November 11 until December 16 from 3:30 – 4:15 pm. The cost per participant is $ 32.00 resident and $ 48.00 non-resident. The deadline to register will be November 4. Class will be held at the Worth Park District Terrace Centre.

Come out and make a centerpiece for your Thanksgiving Holiday table with the Worth Park District on Wednesday, November 11 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Children ages 3 – 9 and their parents work together to bring these beautiful toppers to the table. Sure to tickle your tail feathers! The cost of this workshop is $ 5.00 resident and $ 7.50 non-resident.

Hey son's take your mom out for a great night on Friday, November 13 full of fun and games at the Terrace Centre (11500 South Beloit). Special Couples will participate in carnival type games; enjoy pizza and an ice cream sundae. Your evening will begin at 6:30 pm and run until 8:30 pm. The ages for children are 5 – 12 years old. The cost per couple is $ 19.00 resident and $ 28.50 non-resident and $ 6.00 per each additional child. The deadline date to register is November 6, so sign up today!

Experience shopping, festive music and a fabulous light parade along the magnificent mile in Chicago. Enjoy a parade of lights, fireworks and extended shopping hours. This is the perfect way to kick off your holiday season. This trip will take place on Saturday, November 21 from 3:00 – 10:00 pm. The cost per person is $ 15.00 with included transportation only. The deadline to register is November 7. Please remember to dress for the weather. This basketball league is a co-op between the Worth Park District, Palos Park Recreation Department and the Palos Heights Recreation Department. The league will have boy and girl divisions and will emphasize play while developing skills. Each child will have one practice per week and play in at least half a game each week while learning the value of teamwork. The fee per player is $ 100.00 resident and $ 120.00 non-resident if you register before December 1 and $ 120.00 resident and $ 140.00 non-resident after draft day. The fee includes patched officials, outside facility rentals, a team shirt, participant award, photo package and an end of the season party for the players. Team practices are held once a week Tuesday-Friday. There will be a $ 20.00 charge for participants that drop or register for this program once the draft has taken place.

At the Parent-Child Turkey Shoot, Worth boys and girls between the ages of 8 – 14 (age will be determined as of November 21, 2009) and a parent of their choice will compete in a basketball free throw shooting contest on Saturday, November 21 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. Boys and girls will compete separately in the following divisions: 8 year old, 9 & 10, 11 & 12 and 13 & 14. The winning parent and child team in each division will receive a certificate good for a Thanksgiving Turkey. Various prizes will be raffled off throughout the morning as well. Registration is required ($ 1.00 per parent child team) and the deadline is November 14.

All events will be at Worth Park District Terrace Centre Gym (11500 S. Beloit). For more information regarding any event, please call the Worth Park District at (708) 448-7080 or visit www.worthparkdistrict.org.

Hickory Hills Park District keeps the community active

The Hickory Hills Park District will hold After School – Open Gym on Wednesdays, now through December 16 at Krueger Park Rec. Center from 3:45 - 5:30 p.m., for children 8 – 11 year olds. Pay at the door: $2.

Open basketball for 5th – 12th grade boys and girls is available on Fridays, now through – November 23, 5th – 8th grade attend from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.; 6th – 12th grade attend from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at Krueger Park Rec. Center, 9100 S. 88th Ave. Enjoy fast break games. Fee: $3 (5th –8th grade-each day, pay at the door); $5 (6th –12th -each day, pay at the door).

The hottest fitness craze is here... Zumba! Join us every Tuesday at Krueger Park Rec. Center from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. This high-energy class combines aerobic exercise with Latin dance moves. The steps are very repetitive and surprisingly easy to learn, not to mention fun! Pay at the door: Resident: $5; Non-Resident $6 (16yrs & Up).

Acorn Public Library Announces Holiday Craft Fair

The Friends of the Acorn Public Library District will host a holiday craft fair at the library on Saturday November 7 from 9 AM to 3PM. This is the first time the Friends has put on such an event, but they hope to make it an annual event in the future. The fair will feature at least 12 different exhibitors selling such goods as jewelry, custom sunglasses, scrapbooks, various foodstuffs (including candy), and winter clothing. All vendors will be local, most of them from Oak Forest itself. The fair will be held in the library's meeting room on its lower level. Start your holiday shopping early, with great handmade gifts for you loved ones, and for yourself!

Acorn Public Library is located at 15624 S. Central Avenue in Oak Forest. For more information, please call 708-687-3700. This fair is free and open to the public.

Marist Celebrates Alumni Commitment to the School

Marist High School recently recognized alumni teachers and staff members, who make up nearly twenty percent of the employee base and help carry on the school's mission.

The alumni teachers and staff members take on a variety of roles. The group includes six administrators, six head coaches, seven assistant coaches, and seven moderators, including the band director. They work in all thirteen of the schools academic and support departments. No matter what their role, however, they each are integral to continuing the traditions set in place at Marist, while helping further continued growth and improvement at the school. "At Marist, we try to teach our students they are a part of the school family for life, and having so many alumni teaching in our building everyday is a constant reminder of that ideal," explained Marist Principal Larry Tucker, a 1979 graduate. "These alums choosing to come back and work here speaks volumes to the experience they had as students and their dedication to continuing Marist's Catholic mission."

Marist alumni faculty and staff are living examples of carrying on the school's mission even after graduation. They are (first row, from left): Rich Kamia '03, Jeff Santori '89, Patrick Ryan '01, Bob Morowczynski '00, Don Pirkle '77, Don Richardson '77, Tom Fabrizio '98, Tom Inzinga '84, Rich Watson '94, Brian Keane '91, Erik Christensen '97, Mike Brennan '99, Deacon Andy Neu '72, Jeff Nicholson '81, Andrew Creagh '04, Kevin Butler '05, (second row, from left) Walter "Voe" Zintak '67, Joe Inzinga '77, Brendan Heffernan '99, Steve Davidson '99, Larry Tucker '79. Not pictured: Jim Finn '03, Adam Wouk '02, Tom Sullivan '05, Gene Nolan '92, Pat Dunne '98 and Marty Wirtz'72.

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Oak Lawn Public Library to host art exhibit, youth game nights, and more

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will host Yu-Gi-Oh game events on Thursday, November 12 and December 10 from 4-5 p.m. Students in grades three and up are invited to bring their own set of Yu-Gi-Oh cards to play with others. No registration required. Lower level meeting room.

The library, located at 5300 W. 95th St., will also offer a free estate planning seminar Monday, November 16 at 7 p.m.

Attorney Alan Sohn and Private Wealth Advisor Michael Foltz from the Chicago Estate Planning Council will share information about wills, trusts, health care decision making, insurance and financial planning. Participants will also learn what questions to ask, find out about the laws and taxes involved and become aware of the most important issues to consider in the estate planning process. Afterwards, there will be a question and answer period.

The library, will also host "Cooking for Kids" from 4-5 p.m. Tuesday, November 17 for students in third through fifth grade. At this monthly afterschool program, Chef Eileen Turner introduces fun aspects of cooking and participants get to take home their creations. This month, young cooks will be making "Talkin' Turkey Paninis." Sign up in advance at the Youth Services Desk with the child's library card. There is a $5 non-refundable fee for supplies. Limit: 30.

The library will also host a Teen Game Night, featuring Guitar Hero, Wii games and Xbox360 games, Wednesday, November 18 from 7-8:30 p.m. for students in sixth through tenth grade. Teens may also bring their favorite games to play with others. Free snacks for game participants.

The library will also host a free travelogue exploring "Modern Iran and Ancient Persia" 7 p.m. Thursday, November 19.

World traveler Bill Helmuth returns with an intriguing slide show and lecture that takes you from the marvels of ancient Persia to the reality of modern Iran. Armchair travelers will hear exotic tales, view beautiful images and learn about the people and places of this faraway land. As a corporate executive for Time Life, Bill has traveled to more than 100 countries, flown 4,000,000 miles and lived on four continents.

Children ages three through eight are invited to attend a free Drop-in Storytime program of stories, songs and action rhymes from 11-11:30 a.m. Saturday, November 7 at the library. No advance registration is required. Parents are welcome to accompany their child to this program. Otherwise, they must stay within the library.

"The Swing Dogs" will perform a free concert 2-4 p.m. Sunday, November 8 at the library, in the lower level meeting room. Your toes will be tappin' at this lively, spontaneous, "hot jazz" jam session. Seven musicians will perform a selection of instrumental and vocal renditions of much-loved standards and jazz favorites. The concert is sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Lawn Library.

The Oak Lawn Community Partnership will offer free blood pressure screenings and "Ask the Pharmacist" consultations 10-11 a.m. Wednesday, November 11 at the library. Participants may bring in their current medications and meet oneonone with a pharmacist to discuss dosing, optimization, special instructions, duplication and other important medical concerns. The Oak Lawn Community Partnership is a cooperative alliance between the Village of Oak Lawn and Advocate Christ Medical Center. Their mission is to maintain the highest quality of life for all residents by encouraging collaboration among local government, businesses, schools and the community.

While schools are closed for Veteran's Day, the library will host a free movie screening of "The Adventures of Robin Hood" on Wednesday, November 11 at 2 p.m. This 1938 classic is rated PG for adventure violence. Running time: 94 min.

The library, will also exhibit dozens of original works by local artists in their Public Art Gallery during November 2009.

Members of the community may stop by to view paintings by members of the Mount Greenwood Art Club, color pencil and pen drawings by Isabella M. Pietluck-Baron, and watercolor paintings by Nanette Turetgen. The library's public art gallery is located on the second floor, near the Computer Center.

Artists interested in participating in future exhibitions can pick up an application at the library's Reception Booth. For more information, contact Linda Atkins, public relations officer, 708-422-4990.

The Oak Lawn Public Library is located at 5300 W. 95th St. For more information, and additional events call 708-422-4990 or visit, oaklawnlibrary.org.

Is Santa Coming to your town? Are you having a Christmas Parade? Or planning a Special Holliday Event?
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Moraine Valley adds new Personal Finance class

Moraine Valley Community College's business department will offer a new course in the spring to introduce topics associated with the management of an individual's financial affairs. Personal Finance, BUS 135, will cover many areas that an individual must face during their lifetime such as budgeting, taxes, credit purchases, insurance, and investing.

Personal Finance is a two credit hour class that will meet Monday and Wednesday, from noon to 1:40 p.m. for eight weeks. Only one section is offered. "In today's economy, it's important more than ever that people understand how to manage their finances," said Professor Joe Flynn, who will be teaching the course. For more information, contact him at Flynn@morainevalley.edu.

Evergreen Park to dedicate Blue Star Memorial

The Village of Evergreen Park will be dedicating their Blue Star Memorial Marker on Tuesday, November 10, 2009. The Memorial Marker is located at 95th and Sawyer Ave, Evergreen Park, IL. The dedication will start at 1:30 p.m.

The Memorial Program was initiated by the National Garden Club Inc., in 1945 to honor the men and women who had served, were serving or would serve in the Armed Forces of the United States.

We would like to extend our appreciation to Mayor James Sexton for securing this Memorial for their Village, on behalf of the Garden Club of Illinois. Please join us as we honor those who defend this great land.

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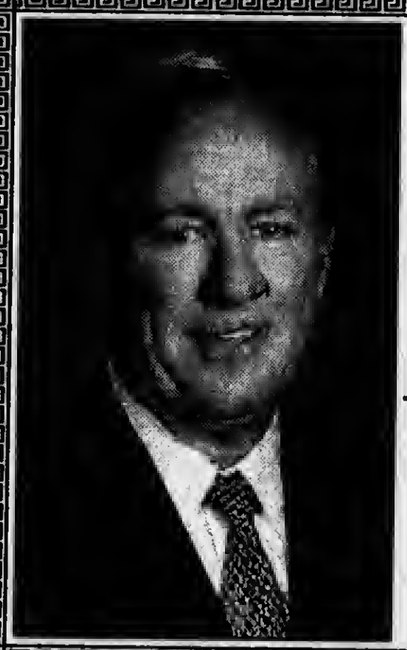
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Nov 30 10am
Palos Gardens Restaurant
7164 W 127th St
Palos Heights, IL 60463

Dec 10 1pm
Palos Heights Pks & Rec
6601 W 127th St
Palos Heights, IL 60463

Nov 11 9:30am
Original Pancake House
10437 S Western Av
Chicago, IL 60643

Nov 18 9:30am
Original Pancake House
10437 S Western Av
Chicago, IL 60643

Dec 4 10am
Peachtree Cafe
4020 Lincoln Hwy
Matteson, IL 60443

Dec 15 10am
Jedi's Garden Restaurant
9266 S Cicero Av
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Nov 12 2pm
Jedi's Garden Restaurant
9266 S Cicero Av
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Nov 18 10am
South Chicago YMCA
3039 E 91st St
Chicago, IL 60617

Dec 8 10am
Original Pancake House
10437 S Western Av
Chicago, IL 60643

Dec 18 10am
Chicago Heights Pk Dist
1400 Chicago Rd
Chicago Heights, IL 60411

Nov 16 9am
Jedi's Garden Restaurant
9266 S Cicero Av
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Nov 20 9:30am
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6601 W 127th St
Palos Heights, IL 60463

Dec 9 10am
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McAuley to hold Open House

Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School's Open Houses will be held on Sunday, November 8 from noon to 2:30 p.m., and Tuesday, December 1 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Elementary school girls and their families are invited to visit McAuley to learn about the many advantages the school offers for students. Visitors will have the opportunity to take a tour and to meet administration, faculty, staff, students, alumnae and McAuley parents.

McAuley prides itself on offering young women a Catholic, liberal arts, secondary school with a curriculum based in the humanities, sciences and social sciences. Students consistently excel in writing and verbal communication, and possess the ability to solve complex problems, to work well with others, and to adapt to changes. Students regularly accept active roles in their community, church and society, and McAuley's educational program enables students to become conscientious leaders who appreciate global diversity.

Mother McAuley believes that well rounded individuals are formed through educating the mind, body and spirit. Students can choose from 32 service, interest and social clubs and organizations, and McAuley has a strong athletic program.

For more information about Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School, 3737 West 99th Street, Chicago, call 773-881-6511 or visit www.mothermcauley.org.

Seton Academy
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November 18, 2009
6-8pm

Entrance Exam
January 9, 2010
8am—$25 fee

For information call 708-333-6300
www.seton-academy.org

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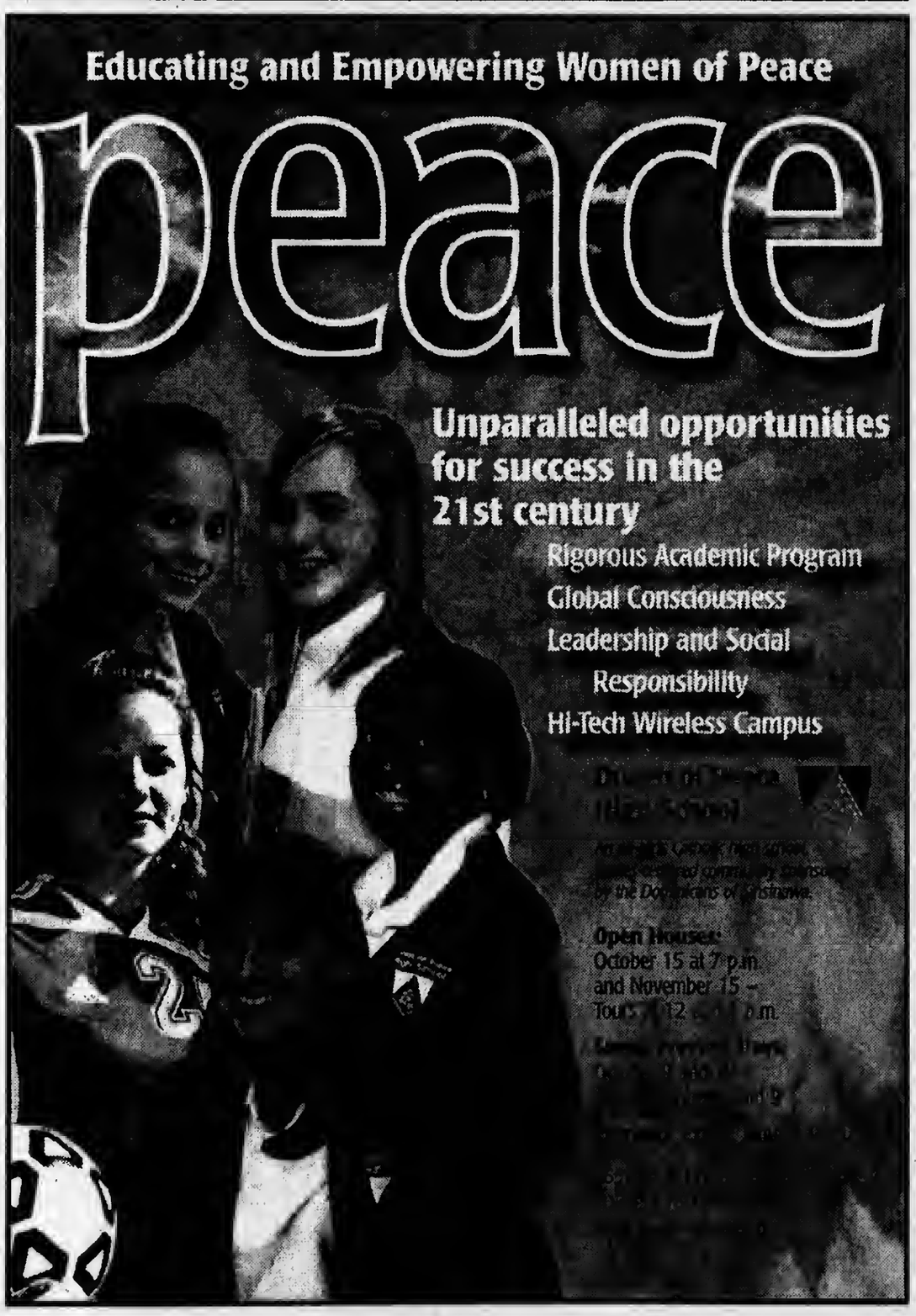

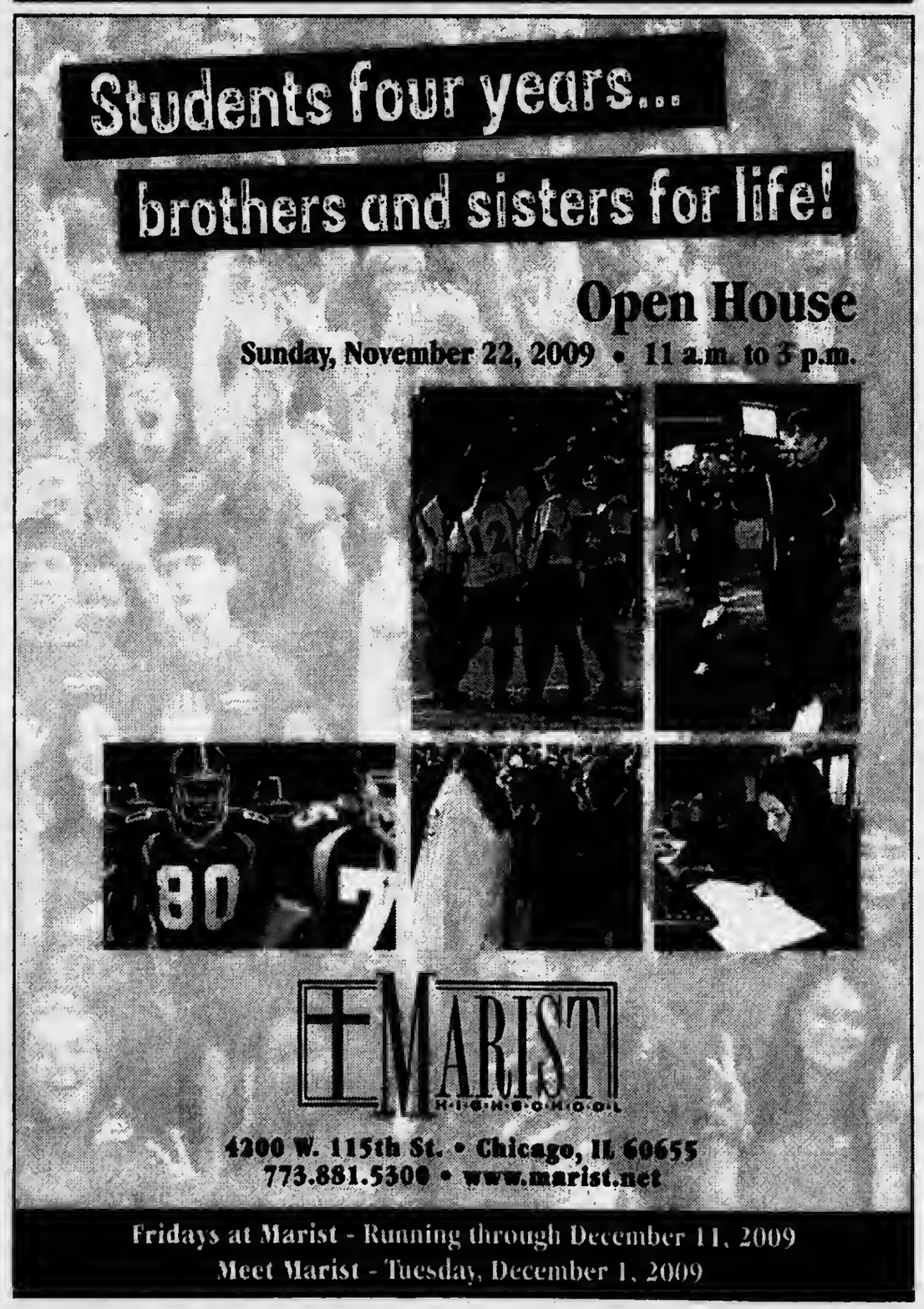

Goodman Theatre hosts 2nd annual Pooch on Scrooge

The holiday tradition of kids posing for photos with Old Saint Nick goes to the dogs when Goodman Theatre hosts its 2nd annual "Pooch on Scrooge" Saturday November 14, from 9:00am – 11:30am at the theater (170 North Dearborn Street). Well-behaved dogs-on-leashes are welcome to dress up for the occasion and pose for a "quick take" portrait with Ebenezer Scrooge of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol (running in the Albert Theatre November 20 – December 31, 2009), by celebrated photographer David Sutton. The event is free, though the Goodman suggests a donation of $10 for Season of Concern, a local organization which provides compassionate care to those in the theater community experiencing the effects of catastrophic illness. There is limited capacity for this event; reservations are strongly recommended. RSVP at www.GoodmanTheatre.org/PoochOnScrooge and be automatically entered to win a free sitting with David Sutton at Sutton Studios.

Named "America's Best Pet Photographer" by Forbes FYI, David Sutton has been photographing pets for over 15 years. His portraits of people and their pets have been featured extensively in national media including The Today Show and Animal Planet, as well as in the Chicago Tribune, Denver Post, Ft. Worth Star-Telegram, Chicago Sun-Times and Crain's Chicago Business. He has also exhibited his work in a number of prestigious venues including Hermé s of Paris and Takishimaya New York.

Each dog owner will receive a digital photo of their "Pooch on Scrooge," perfect for holiday cards, witty e-mails and refrigerator doors. The hound in the best holiday attire will win a gift basket, compliments of Barker and Meowsky – A Paw Firm, including tickets to the Goodman's 32nd annual production of A Christmas Carol.

Goodman Theatre will admit only well-behaved, child-friendly, house-trained dogs on leashes. Owners should not bring aggressive/anti-social dogs or dogs that bite. The Goodman reserves the right to ask owners with poorly behaved dogs to leave the event.

A Christmas Carol performances begin November 20 (opening night is November 29) and run through December 31 in the Goodman's Albert Theatre. Tickets are $25 – $74 and may be purchased online at GoodmanTheatre.org, at the Goodman Theatre Box Office (170 North Dearborn Street) or by phone at 312.443.3800. Harris Bank is the Major Corporate Sponsor and Aon Corporation, AT&T and Chapman and Cutler are Corporate Sponsor Partners.

American Blues Theater welcomes Academy Award winning guest

Nov. 16 The Rebirth of Blues Benefit Kicks off American Blues Theater's 24th Season

American Blues Theater (ABT), Chicago's second oldest Equity ensemble Company, celebrates its 24th season with The Rebirth of Blues Benefit, Monday, Nov. 16 featuring special guest Academy Award-winner Olympia Dukakis. As part of the program, Dukakis reads a passage from ABT's Spring 2010 show "RIPPED: The Living Newspaper Project" and participates in a VIP pre-event reception. The benefit takes place at the Bridgeview Bank, 4753 N. Broadway, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Tickets are currently on sale. "As a long-time friend of ABT ensemble member Carmen Roman, I've watched this company continuously produce incredible, groundbreaking work. The 2009/10 season is no exception. I'm honored to be a part of their benefit celebration, and fully support this inspirational Chicago ensemble," said Dukakis.

Set in a stunning Italian Renaissance rotunda within the Bridgeview Bank, the evening kicks-off with a private reception at 5:30 p.m. where guests can spend an intimate hour with Dukakis. At 6:30 p.m., the party begins with drinks, delicious food, live music and a preview of "RIPPED." Dukakis and Artistic Director of Victory Gardens Theater Dennis Zacek will read select pieces written by Eduardo Machado and Rick Cleveland. An auction will offer extraordinary items, from the hottest theater tickets in town to a walk-on Broadway role. Chicago's popular blues band, The Skirts, perform live throughout the evening. Tickets are $75 ($125 VIP tickets include a 5:30 p.m. private reception with Dukakis). Parking is available adjacent to the bank and is complimentary. For tickets, call 312.725.4ABT or visit americanbluestheater.com.

Olympia Dukakis

Roosevelt University presents critically acclaimed ballet

The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University (ATRU, 50 E. Congress Parkway) proudly presents the internationally acclaimed Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet for two shows only, Saturday, Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 15 at 2 p.m. Tickets are now on sale.

Founded in 2003 by Nancy Laurie and currently under the artistic direction of former Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater member Benoit-Swan Pouffer, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet boasts an exceptionally talented ensemble of sixteen dancers from around the world. The company focuses on acquiring and commissioning new works by the world's most sought-after emerging choreographers.

Through their daring, athletic movement and integration of ballet into contemporary and popular dance forms, the dancers of Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet take audiences on a choreographic journey that explores the infinite possibilities of movement and multimedia. According to The New York Times, "the troupe has drawn a dance-savvy audience and created a team of wonderful performers, adept at picking up different styles and always impressive in their articulation and intensity." For their exclusive Chicago engagement at the Auditorium Theatre, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet will perform Crystal Pite's "Ten Duets on a Theme of Rescue," Didy Veldman's "frame of view" (sic) and Jo Strømgren's "Sunday, Again."

According to choreographer Crystal Pite, "Ten Duets on a Theme of Rescue" (Cedar Lake world premiere 2008) is an act of excavation in which fragments of narrative are rescued from the choreography, and exposed for brief contemplation before dissolving back into dance. By using choreography to extend, distort or suspend these fragments of narrative, ordinary human movements become extraordinary through the framework of the theater and through the virtuosity of the performers.

Choreographer Didy Veldman describes "frame of view" (Cedar Lake world premiere 2009) as an investigation of the physical movement a particular emotion may take, how it manifests itself in the body, how long that physicality may last and the energy that it creates. By creating different interior and exterior scenes, and utilizing a varied musical landscape, Veldman creates an accessible work with a touch of irony and humor. "frame of view" features an eclectic score that includes the music of Nina Simone, Pink Martini, Offenbach, Dean Martin and the Kronos Quartet.

"Sunday, Again," choreographed by Jo Strømgren (Cedar Lake world premiere 2008), is a piece that reflects the diversity of Johann Sebastian Bach's music. Abstract movement patterns are woven together in fugal ways, not unlike the baroque way of assembling melodic phrases and ornamentations. On an associative level, "Sunday, Again" thematically treats the domestic jungle of luxury problems and gender frictions. "As the title suggests, there is always the irritating and inevitable Sunday which forces couples to test their coexistence abilities. Leisure time is not good for certain types of relationships," says Strømgren.

Cedar Lake Artistic Director Benoit-Swan Pouffer joined the company in 2005 following an extensive career as a dancer, teacher and choreographer. He began his dance studies at the prestigious Conservatoire National Superieur de Musique et de Danse, where he performed works by renowned French choreographers such as Claude Brumachon, Daniel Larrieu and Angelin Preljocaj. Pouffer's distinguished career as a professional dancer includes a seven year tenure with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (from 1997 – 2004) in addition to seasons with Philadanco, Donald Byrd/The Group and Complexions Contemporary Ballet. Pouffer has also offered outreach programs in South Africa and taught master classes throughout Europe and the United States. Pouffer's role as curator of one of the most ambitious world-class repertoires in America today furthers Cedar Lake's mission to provide choreographers with a comprehensive environment for creation and presentation.

Vancouver-based choreographer and performer Crystal Pite has created works for Nederlands Dans Theater, Ballett Frankfurt, Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal (including a term as resident choreographer), Ballet British Columbia, the Alberta Ballet, Ballet Jörgen and several independent dance artists. As a member of Ballett Frankfurt, she was involved in the creation of William Forsythe's CD-ROM "Improvisation Technologies" and participated in Forsythe's works both as a performer and co-creator. Pite later formed her own company, Kidd Pivot, and continues to create and perform her own work. Kidd Pivot tours nationally and internationally with productions that include "Lost Action," "Uncollected Work" and "Double Story," created with Richard Siegal. Pite is the recipient of the Banff Centre's Clifford E. Lee Award, the Bonnie Bird North American Choreography Award and the Isadora Award.

Single tickets are now on sale, and range in price from $30 - $65. For single tickets, visit the Auditorium Theatre Box Office at 50 E. Congress Parkway; call Ticketmaster at (800) 982-ARTS (2787); or log on to ticketmaster.com/auditorium. For more information about Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, please visit cedarlakedance.com.

The Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet will perform in the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University

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Two Penny Social & Raffle

The Oak Lawn Community Church, 9000 South Ridgeland Ave, Oak Lawn, IL. will be holding their Annual Two Penny Social on Saturday evening, November 7, 2009. Hundreds of items for all ages will be won at this popular yearly event. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Drawings begin at 6:15 p.m. There will also be raffles which will include a number of gift certificates and prizes. Grand raffle prizes will include Blackhawk tickets and a 2 night Wisconsin getaway. A 50/50 Split the Pot will round off the evening. Homemade food and bakery are available for purchase.

Donation of a canned good for the Church Food Pantry would be appreciated in lieu of admission. Parking is free. For more information, contact the church office at 708-599-4025.

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Friday, Nov. 6, 2009
5:00 pm - 9:30 pm

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MOTHER'S CLUB

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Saturday, November 14, 2009
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Over 50 Crafters, Free Admission
Bake Sale - Luncheon - Raffles

Holiday Vendor Fair
Sunday, November 15, 2009
Noon-3:00 p.m.
Tinley Park-Park District
8125 W 171st St
708-342-4200

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Sunday, November 29, 2009
10:00 am to 5:00 pm
William Tell Banquet Hall Holiday Inn
6201 Joliet Road, Countryside, Il
Take I-55, exit E. Joliet Rd, go 2 miles to entrance for Holiday Inn, left side on Joliet Rd, (Banquet Hall on side)
Free Admission – Free Parking
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Call for info 815-788-1630 or go to www.craftycraftersexpo.com

Holli-Daze Craft Show
Sat. Nov. 7, 9:30am-4:00pm
Sun. Nov. 8, 9:30am-3:00pm
Lincoln-Way East High School
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$2.00 Adm (ages 12-54)
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- 25-64 years old with chronic health conditions (for example, asthma or diabetes)?
- Health care worker?

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Orland Park
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708-364-5700

Morgan Park
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Chicago, IL
773-298-9800

Or call our Physician Referral Hotline for more information at

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Far South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 21 November 3, 2009

The indoor track at the Village of Orland Park Sportsplex will be reserved for little turkey trotters on November 21st then the Recreation Department hosts its first ever Kids' Turkey Trot for kids age three through eight. Further information is available by calling 708/403-7275.

Orland Park Recreation To Host First Kids' Turkey Trot

Runners Age Three to Eight Invited to Participate

ORLAND PARK, IL – The Orland Park Recreation Department will hold its 21st annual Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day. While this annual family favorite is open to all ages, parents find it difficult to participate with little ones in tow.

"We wanted to do something to give the younger kids the opportunity to participate in a run separate from the Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot," explained Deborah Geghen, fitness manager at the village's Sportsplex who is overseeing the kids' event.

Orland Park's Kids' Turkey Trot will be held Saturday, November 21, 2009 on the indoor track at the Village of Orland Park Sportsplex . Check in begins at 8:30 a.m. and the race beginning at 9:00 a.m. Participants, age three to eight, must register before November 14. The cost is $12 for residents, $15 for non-residents and $7 for Sportsplex members.

Three year olds will run three laps. Four and five year olds will complete six laps with six and seven year olds running eight laps. Eight year olds will run ten laps around the indoor track and all participants will receive shirts and post race refreshments.

"Friends and family are invited to come cheer the kids on," Geghen encouraged. "This will be a great event that we hope to continue in the years ahead, encouraging kids to enjoy healthy lifestyles, making physical activity an important part of their day," she added.

Registration is available at the Franklin Loebe Center , 14650 South Ravinia Avenue or at the Sportsplex, 11351 West 159th Street . Questions may be directed to the Orland Park Recreation Department at 708/645-7529.

Southwest Community Concert Band Events

The Southwest Community Concert Band, directed by Ray Forlenza, welcomes the Tinley Park Arts Alive! Band directed by Barbara Abarro, as its guest. This free concert "A Tribute to WW II Veterans" features two community bands, with members from all over the Chicago land area. All veterans are invited to attend and pay tribute to our WW II veterans.

Many area American Legion posts and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts will be presenting the colors including American Legion Post 615 and VFW Post 2791.

This free concert will be held Sunday November 8, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. at the First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 South Bell Road, Lemont, Illinois 60439.

During intermission, you can purchase beverages and snacks at the church's Clay Café.

Selections include: "Where Never Lark or Eagle Flew" by James Curnow which is based on a poem written by WW II pilot John Gillespie Magee who was shot down in December 1941. It's about his love for flying and its release from the troubles of the world. "Symphonic Prelude" by Mark Camphouse which is inspired by the brave soldiers who are buried at the World War II Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in France. You'll also hear "Manhattan Beach" March by John Philip Sousa, "Victory at Sea" by Richard Rodgers, "Saint Louis Blues March" by W.C. Handy and "Band of Brothers" from the television miniseries about WW II. You'll enjoy a medley of Tony Bennett songs including "It Had to be You", "The Girl I Love", "The Good Life", "They Can't Take That Away from Me", "Moonglow", "A Foggy Day", "Body and Soul", "It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got that Swing".

Veterans will enjoy "Armed Forces Salute – the Pride of America" which is a medley representing the military branches of service and "Stars and Stripes Forever" by Sousa.

This program is partially sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council.

Upcoming events:

November 15, 2009 Sunday 1:00 – 5:00 PM Arts Alive! Band 12th annual Spaghetti Dinner at VFW Bremen Post 2791, at 17147 S. Oak Park Avenue, Tinley Park.

Ticket prices are $5.00 per person, or $20.00 for a family of 4 or more. Dinner includes: salad, spaghetti (all you can eat), meat or marinara sauce, garlic bread, coffee and dessert. Meatballs are three for $1.00. A cash bar is available. We also offer our meals "to go". Tickets are available at the door or from band members. Included in the afternoon's festivities will be raffles, split-the-pot, and musical entertainment provided by various ensembles of the Arts Alive! Band. Among the performers will be the Liquorice Schticks (clarinet choir), Sax in the Suburbs (saxophone quartet), the Oompah-Loompahs (novelty band) and the Arts Alive! Jazz Band.

December 6, 2009, Sunday 3:00 PM Free Arts Alive! Community Concert Band Holiday Concert. At the Tinley Park-Park District Center for the Performing Arts at Kirby School, 17300 Ozark Avenue, Tinley Park, IL 60477.

December 20th, Sunday 6:00 pm. Southwest Community Concert Band Free Home for Christmas Concert and annual food drive. This year's guest artist will be the award-winning Midwest Crossroads Chorus of the Sweet Adelines. The price of admission will be non-perishable food items, which will be donated to the two Lemont Food Pantries. Food pantry donation is requested. At the First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 South Bell Road, Lemont, Illinois 60439.

Both bands welcome new members.

The Southwest Community Concert Band was established in 1981. Rehearsals are 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. on Tuesdays at the First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 South Bell Road, Lemont, IL 60439. P.O Box 246, Lemont Illinois 60439-0246. Band voice mail (815) 773-4159. Website: www.swcommunityband.com E-mail info@swcommunityband.com

The Tinley Park Arts Alive! Band was established in 1987 and is sponsored by the Tinley Park-Park District. Rehearsals are 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. on Mondays at McCarthy Park, 16801 S. 80th Avenue, Tinley Park, IL 60477. Phone: 708-342-4200 and ask about the band. Website: www.artsalive.org E-mail: artsaliveband@yahoo.com

Tinley Park - Park District Events

November 8th, 2009, 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM at Vogt Woods, 6527 W. 171st Street.

Don't miss the annual Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk! Register by November 4 for $17 per runner. Race day registration is $22 per runner. The first 350 runners registered will receive a Turkey Trot t-shirt!

Contact Mike Hayes at 708-342-4200 for more information.

November 14th, 2009, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM at Bettenhausen Rec Center 8125 West 171st Street , Tinley Park

Here's the perfect opportunity to have your picture taken with Santa and have photos ready for the holidays. Santa will be at the Rec Center from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. A $15 picture package may be ordered for delivery by December 8. Or you may purchase a 5x7 photo for $7 that will be available shortly after your visit with Santa. Fees must be paid at the time the photos are taken (please bring exact dollar amount). No registration necessary.

Contact Stacey Green at 708-342-4200 for more information.

Win a Turkey for Thanksgiving at our annual Turkey Shoot!

And Bring Mom along to shop at the Holiday Vendor Fair! With over 20 Vendors.

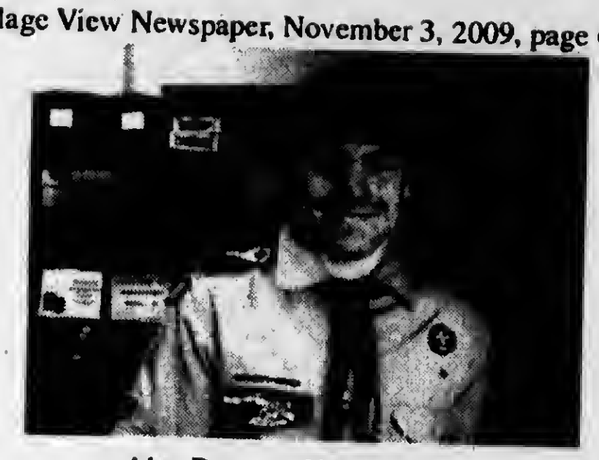
Both events take place Sunday, November 15, 2009 12:00-3:00 pm

Turkey Shoot

Teams consist of one adult and one child. Brackets are determined by the sum of the team members' ages. Each team member shoots 10 free throws. A winning team will be selected in each of four age brackets. Gift certificates will be awarded to winners on November 17. No registration necessary. FREE!

Both events take place on November 15 from 12:00-3:00 pm at the Bettenhausen Recreation Center 8125 W. 171st Street, Tinley Park! FREE ADMISSION

For futher details call 708-342-4200.



Alex Rogers of Tinley Park

Tinley Park Scout earns rank while aiding Together We Cope

Alex Rogers already knows a lot about community service. Now he knows about the tremendous generosity of his friends and neighbors.

The 17-year-old Marian Catholic High School senior recently organized a food drive for Together We Cope as part of his Eagle Scout project with Troop 380 in Tinley Park. He had the project pretty well laid out, with clear goals in mind. But the response to his plan exceeded his expectations when he ended up with more than a ton of donated food on his hands.

Rogers has been in Scouting for more than 10 years, and has an older brother who also achieved the rank of Eagle. A number of things drew him to Scouting. "I've always liked the service projects that are a part of Scouting, and I liked learning new things while earning badges," he said. And, of course, there's Scout summer camp with all the adventure that comes with that experience.

Achieving Eagle rank is one of the most difficult ventures in the Scouting program, and Rogers learned it is also one of the most rewarding. He said he chose Together We Cope's food pantry as recipient of his efforts because it is a local agency that serves people from his Tinley Park community. "I also like the fact that this organization helps people in need every day," Rogers said. "That impressed me when I first heard about them."

Rogers had 500 fliers printed announcing his project and a food pickup date, and obtained food bags from TWC to distribute with the fliers. He first held an organization meeting to enlist friends and other Scouts to help deliver the fliers and bags to designated neighborhoods and to his high school and church, St. George in Tinley Park. Later, they launched the flier distribution on a Sunday afternoon. A week later, Rogers and his group began picking up the food bags at all the locations where they left fliers.

"It was pretty amazing," he recalls.. "Bags and bags of food just kept rolling in, and I'm still collecting some now even though the official drive is over." He said the response was particularly heartening at Marian Catholic, where teachers and staff got involved and urged the student body to get behind Rogers' project.

All the food was brought to a drop-off site, where a Together We Cope truck picked it up. Rogers and his friends followed the truck to TWC and helped unload it at the food pantry, where refreshments were given to all the workers.

Carol Ettema, manager of the pantry, said it is especially gratifying when young people get involved in helping their neighbors. "That brings some of the greatest rewards to us here at TWC, watching youngsters reach out to give a helping hand," she said.

Rogers is working his way through the college application process now, and is sharing the story about his generous neighbors with college admissions offices. He's not sure about a college major yet, but suspects it will involve two of his passions: music and service to humanity.

Orland Park Homeowners' Association to compete for Green and Gorgeous Beautification Program

Homeowners' associations in the Village of Orland Park are invited to compete in the village's "Green and Gorgeous Beautification Program." Part of the village's green initiative, Smart Living Orland Park, the selected homeowners' association will receive instruction from the Prairie Godmothers of Flossmoor on how to transition landscapes into water conscious, soil nurturing, climate loving outdoor spaces.

"We're inviting all homeowners' groups in the village to be a part of this competition," said Trustee Pat Gira, chair of the village's Parks, Recreation and Environmental Initiatives Committee. "Associations are invited to tell us why a public space in their subdivision would benefit from the expertise of the Prairie Godmothers," Gira added.

The program was developed by the village's Recreation Department, in particular Director Nancy Flores, Program Supervisor Stephanie Simpson and Recreation Instructor Rebecca McDowell.

"This program focuses on sustainable gardening and landscape practices to protect the planet," Flores explained. "Choosing native plants over annual plants may reduce a homeowner's spending by 50 percent in the first year alone," she noted.

Single family and multi-family associations are encouraged to visit the village's Smart Living website at www.smartlivingop.com to complete an application to be considered.

"We're asking associations to submit photos showing existing common areas that they'd like transformed," Simpson said. "We've already heard from a few groups in town and we're hoping that many more come on board," she said.

"Associations must be willing to take a significant leap toward greener living by creating environmentally responsible garden spaces," McDowell explained. "The chosen neighborhood has to meet simple prerequisites and be willing to comply with practices that use native plants, improve soil and conserve water," she said.

Jackie Riffice is the founder of Prairie Godmothers. Explaining the organization, Riffice said, "Prairie Godmothers is not only about sustainable gardening but also about environmental stewardship. We demystify the whole 'going green' thing and demonstrate that it's not difficult, disruptive, expensive or uncomfortable. I believe it, I try to live it and I find it's contagious. Protecting the planet has become personal and everyone wants to be part of it."

"Prairie Godmothers designed a village beautification program with an environmental twist – long term sustainability that is good for the planet. Instead of the traditional curb appeal of annual flowers and manicured hedges, the program aims to improve landscapes and gardens with practices that use native plants, improve soil and conserve water," Riffice explained, adding. "The resulting gardens are not only stunning, they provide never-ending visual interest, are less expensive over time and are better for the environment."

Orland Park took it a step further and created a competition among homeowners' associations. The chosen homeowners' association will receive consulting services and a garden design from Prairie Godmothers. Homeowners will be able to transform an existing common area into an earth-friendly model that can be applied to their own residential landscapes. Single family and multi-family associations are encouraged to visit the village's Smart Living website at www.smartlivingop.com to complete an application by December 1, 2009.

"This will require a nominal investment on the part of the homeowners' association," Gira explained. "The Prairie Godmothers will also demonstrate how the elements of a sustainable landscape in a common area can be applied to residential landscapes," she said.

Applying associations are asked to describe the common area to be considered for recognition, describing its size and shape, existing plants, location within the subdivision and the current state of the area. Association officials are asked to describe what is good and bad about the plant selections in the area and to describe their vision for how the area should look. At least ten percent of a subdivision's residents must be willing to help transform the area in order to be considered.

Applications are due at the Recreation Department no later than December 1, 2009. Questions may be directed to the department at 708/403-7275.

Worth Township offers, fitness, arts & craft classes

The Worth Township Senior Advance Oil Painting Class will be starting again on December 4, 2009. The classes are held on Fridays from 9:00am to 12:00 noon at the Worth Township Center, 11601 S. Pulaski, Alsip. The class will run for 12 weeks and there will be a nominal fee.

The Worth Township Senior Room will be offering an Exercise Class as well. It will start December 1, 2009 and it will be held on Wednesdays from 10:30 am to 11:15 am. There will be a nominal fee.

The Worth Township Senior Room will be offering a Jewelry Making Class as well.

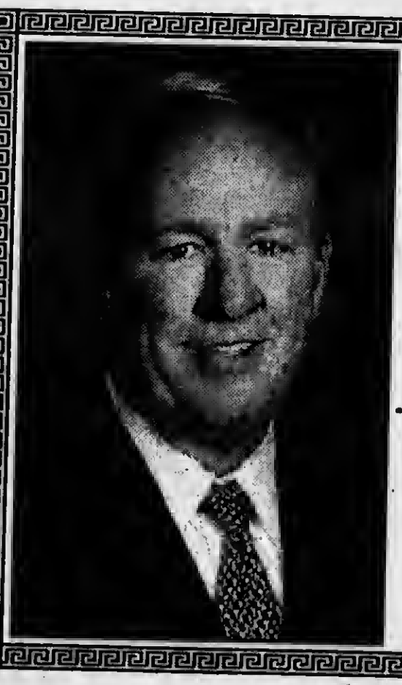
It will start on December 22, 2009 from 12:30 am to 2:30 pm for 12 weeks. There will be a nominal fee. The classes will be held in the Worth Township Center, 11601 S. Pulaski, Alsip

The Worth Township Seniors will offer Free Vision Screening

on Thursday, December 10, 2009 from 9AM – Noon . Last Appointment will be at 11:45. This screening is done at the Worth Township Center , 11601 S. Pulaski, Alsip .You must be a Worth Township Resident to participate.

Appointments are necessary. Please call (708) 371-2900 , Ext. 28 to register for any classes.

Advertise Early for any and all Thanksgiving Weekend Sales. Contact Linda 312-624-8996 for details.



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South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 21 November 3, 2009

Anything Goes... When Anything Goes Up For Bid at Victory Gardens' 28th Annual Casting Auction

Chicago's Most Unique Fundraiser November 14th at the Victory Gardens Biograph Theater

Buy your way to stardom in a Victory Gardens all-amateur musical

CHICAGO, October 23, 2009 - Have you ever dreamed of being on stage? Do you sing in the shower, dance around your living room, and all that jazz?

If you answered yes, admit it, you're infected with a terminal love of classic American musicals. The prescription? Grab your checkbook and a few supportive friends and buy yourself a one-way ticket to stardom at Victory Gardens Theater's 28th Annual Casting Auction, one of Chicago's most unique benefit fundraisers, Saturday, November 14 at 6 pm at the Victory Gardens Biograph Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Avenue, Chicago.

This year, anything goes when Anything Goes is on the auction block, with more than 50 starring and supporting roles on sale to a subsequent, all-amateur production of the classic American musical, professionally directed by Victory Gardens Artistic Director Dennis Zacek. Proceeds from both the auction and the performances that follow will support the non-profit Victory Gardens Theater's new play mission and educational outreach programs.

The party begins at 6 pm with an open bar, a delicious pre-auction buffet, and a silent auction for chorus, cameo, supporting and children's roles. At 7 pm, the Casting Auction moves into the Victory Gardens Biograph mainstage for a live medley performed by top Chicago actors of favorite Cole Porter-penned numbers from Anything Goes, including, of course, the title song, as well as "You're the Top" and "I Get a Kick Out of You."

After the revue, celebrity auctioneer Aaron Freeman will spur on the live bidding for the most coveted lead characters, including seafaring stowaway Billy Crocker, heiress Hope Harcourt, her rich fiancé Sir Evelyn Oakley, nightclub owner Reno Sweeney, and Public Enemy #13 Moonface Martin.

No stage experience (or talent) is necessary. Just a desire to support Victory Gardens, a love of musical theater, and if you want to win a part, the drive to be a star. Dress code? Nautical is recommended (but not required), in a nod to the play's ocean liner setting. Admission is $60 in advance ($200 for groups of 4), or $75 at the door. To RSVP or for more information, contact Johnny Merrifield, (773) 549-5788 ext. 2140 or jmerrifield@victorygardens.org. For complete details, to set up your own online pledge form, and to monitor all of the pre-event Casting Auction online pledges, go to victorygardens.org/castingauction.

If, following the auction, you are not the highest bidder for any of the roles you aspire to, you are still a winner! All pledge and auction money supports Victory Gardens Theater's new play mission, and can still get you one of the MANY one-line or cameo roles, a behind the scenes position at the performance of Anything Goes, or the chance to sponsor hired members of the Anything Goes production staff such as the music director, choreographer, costumes, scenery and props, and orchestra.

Winning bidders will form Victory Gardens' all amateur cast for Anything Goes. Rehearsals begin almost immediately on nights and weekends, culminating in two fully-staged performances, February 12 and 13, 2010 at Chicago's Athenaeum Theater.

Moraine Valley and MetroSouth Medical Center host H1N1 talk

The public is invited to a free program about the H1N1 virus hosted by Moraine Valley Community College and MetroSouth Medical Center . "H1N1: What you should know" will be presented at 7 p.m. November 17 in the Moraine Business and Conference Center (Building M) on the college campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills.

Speakers will include Dr. Robert Fliegelman, chairperson of infectious disease at MetroSouth Medical Center , along with Dr. Mario Piverger, Dr. Miranda Huffman, Dr. Catherine Lindsay, Dr. Claudette Macklin, and Dr. Afsheen Karim. Topics covered will include how the virus is spread, prevention, treatment, comparison to seasonal flu virus, diagnosis, common signs and symptoms, how businesses and schools are affected, and what we can do to prepare for a major outbreak.

To register for this free program, call (708) 974-211. For more information, contact Workforce Development and Community Services at (708) 974-5735 or wdcs@morainevalley.edu.

Arts & Crafts at The Center

The Log Cabin Center for the Arts, 12700 Southwest Highway in Palos Park , will offers a variety of Christmas craft workshops.

On November 6, from 9 - 11 am, Lois Lauer will teach participants to hand-dip Christmas candles from bayberry-scented green wax and pine-scented red wax. There is a workshop fee of $13 plus a $5 materials fee.

Beginning November 9 for three Monday evenings, 6:30 -8:30 pm, Nettie Botts will offer an Introductory weaving workshop in which students will each create a small Christmas weaving . The weaving workshop fee is $39 plus $10 for materials.

On Monday Nov 16, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Silver Jewelry teachers Dan and Sonya Snyder help participants to make a silver Christmas pendant. Silver jewelry students pay a class fee of $13 and a materials fee of $7.

Advance registration is required for all workshops at the Log Cabin Center for the Arts. For further information, call The Center at (708) 361-3650.

New six-week sessions of Children's Art Classes will begin at The Log Cabin Center for the Arts on Saturday morning, November 7, at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.. The Log Cabin Art Center is a part of The Center at 12700 Southwest Highway in Palos Park .

Art instructors Jessie Schaar, Sarah Heflin, and Amy Bennett will teach the children to use a variety of artistic media and techniques, including drawing, painting, papermaking, papier-mâché, printmaking, pottery, and more. Children are divided into three grade-level groups: K-1st, 2nd-3rd, and 4th-8th graders. The natural areas of The Center's farm and woods provide subject matter, inspiration and sometimes the raw materials for the classes.

Program Director Lois Lauer says the classes combine the worlds of art and nature, and are kept small to encourage individual self-expression.

A class fee of $66 covers all supplies except personal sketchbooks. Advance registration is required. Call The Center at (708) 361-3650.

Palos Park Senior Club

The Palos Park Senior club will hold their monthly meeting on Monday, November 9, 2009. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. We meet at the Recreation Center, 8901 West 123rd Street, Palos Park. A catered lunch will be served. Our group will then enjoy a media presentation by Mark Walker, on the Community Center Foundation. The Center offers programs for all ages.

Please call Marie at (708) 480-4103 for information on our program and to order lunch. We hope to see you there.

Toastmasters Meeting

The Center Toastmasters club will meet on Wednesdays, November 4 and 18, at 7 p.m. at 12700 Southwest Highway, Palos Park .

Toastmasters International is an organization for people interested in improving and practicing their public speaking skills. Members take turns leading the meetings and giving speeches, gaining confidence from the encouragement of each other.

The Center Toastmasters meet on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. New members and guests are always welcome. For further information, interested persons should call The Center at (708) 361-3650.

Traditional Turkey Dinner

Saturday, November 14, 2009, Noon until 6:00 PM.
Marrs-Meyer American Legion Post #991
110th&DepotStreetinWorth
Phone: (708) 448-7006

We will be presenting our traditional turkey dinner on Saturday, November 14th from Noon until 6:P.M. The meal will include: turkey, dressing, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, gravy, bread, butter, coffee, tea, soft drinks, and dessert!

*Sorry! No Doggie Bags

Tickets will be available at the door as follows:
Adults & Carry-outs... $9.00
Early Bird Tickets*... $8.00
Senior Citizens (over 55)... $8.00
Children (under 10)... $4.00
Children three and under... Free
*Available at the bar through Friday, November 13th
50/50 OR RAFFLES AND A CASH BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE!

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

B-MAC EDITION

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 21

November 3, 2009

(From Left to Right) Alfred Ellis, Ralph Rogers, Kim Haas, Donna Lasky, Delana Henry, Lynn Kolbe, Trish Losso. (In front) Jane Heinrich, Gail Schenk.

Sertoma Centre announces ACE Award Winners at Annual Staff In-Service

As a non-profit community service agency based in Alsip , Sertoma Centre serves over 600 individuals with developmental, physical, emotional disabilities and/or mental illness.

With two day program facilities in Alsip , nine Community Integrated Living Arrangements (CILAs) throughout the south and southwest suburbs, as well as our Good as New Thrift Store and brand-new mental health facility in Matteson, we are committed to providing opportunities that empower individuals to achieve personal success.

With that in mind, Sertoma Centre is proud to announce the winners of this year's Achieve and Create Excellence (ACE) awards for Sertoma Centre staff members. These awards were presented during our annual staff in-service. Over the last several months, employees were nominated by their peers, and the winner in each category was presented with either a beautiful certificate or a glass trophy.

And the Sertoma Centre ACE Awards Winners for 2009 are:

Employee of the Year: Trish Losso, Staff Training Coordinator/Safety Director

Above & Beyond – Day Programs: Lynn Kolbe, Vocational Coordinator

Above & Beyond – Residential: Alfred Ellis, Service Facilitator, Cambridge CILA

Above & Beyond – Support Services: Donna Lasky, Administrative Secretary

Above & Beyond – Janitorial Services: Ralph Rogers, Janitorial Services Crew Member

Leadership: Kim Haas, Director of CILA/Residential Services

Customer Service: Jane Heinrich, Reception

Team Spirit: Gail Schenk, School Transition Program Manager

Consumer Advocacy & Empowerment: Delana Henry, Intermittent CILA Service Facilitator

As part of the full day training and recognition program, Sertoma Staff were also treated to the inspiration and motivation of internationally renowned speaker, Mikki Williams, through her trademark presentation, "A Balancing Act: Walking the Tightrope of Life" (www.mikkiwilliams.com).

Linda Renardo, Director of Human Resources at Sertoma Centre attributes the success of this year's in-service to both Williams and the enthusiastic participation of staff.

"We were so pleased to be able to combine the recognition of staff for years of dedication and excellence of service with a presentation which focused on enriching their lives," she said. "It is especially gratifying that so many of our employees felt Mikki's presentation was not only entertaining but provided meaningful insight they could use."

For more general information on Sertoma Centre, to schedule a tour, or to make a donation, please contact Melanie Jones, director of advancement and communications, Sertoma Centre, 4343 West 123rd Street , Alsip , IL 60803 , (708) 730-6206, mjones@sertomacentre.org.

For additional information on our various services and programs, interested individuals can also log on to www.sertomacentre.org.

U.S.S. Blue Cap Auction

From the Double Tree Hotel, 5000 W. 127th Street

Friday, Nov 6th, Boarding begins at 6:30 PM.

Open bar, hors d'oeuvres and a Captain's dinner are all inclusive on the U.S.S. Blue Cap. Semi-formal attire required.

Please call (708) 389-8137.

Moraine Valley and MetroSouth Medical Center host H1N1 Talk

The public is invited to a free program about the H1N1 virus hosted by Moraine Valley Community College and MetroSouth Medical Center . "H1N1: What you should know" will be presented at 7 p.m. November 17 in the Moraine Business and Conference Center (Building M) on the college campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills.

Speakers will include Dr. Robert Fliegelman, chairperson of infectious disease at MetroSouth Medical Center , along with Dr. Mario Piverger, Dr. Miranda Huffman, Dr. Catherine Lindsay, Dr. Claudette Macklin, and Dr. Afsheen Karim. Topics covered will include how the virus is spread, prevention, treatment, comparison to seasonal flu virus, diagnosis, common signs and symptoms, how businesses and schools are affected, and what we can do to prepare for a major outbreak.

To register for this free program, call (708) 974-211. For more information, contact Workforce Development and Community Services at (708) 974-5735 or wdcs@morainevalley.edu.

Blue Island American Legion to Honor Our Veterans

"On Veteran's Day, November 11th, 2009, the Blue Island American Legion, Post 50 is honoring our veterans with a caravan parade down Gregory, Maple, Greenwood and Western Ave. The parade will be led by the American Legion Riders and will include American Legion Post 50 and 1156 from Calumet Park, VFW Post 3580 and the Auxiliary units. The Parade will start at approximately 10:30 at Grove and Western and end on Western at Veteran's Plaza. At 11:00 AM there will be a ceremony honoring our veterans. All veterans are invited to attend, and all others are invited to come and thank our veterans and show their support." For more information call 708-774-4627.

Marist Football Celebrates Wins On and Off the Field

Marist's football team has much to celebrate this season. They ended regular season play with a decided win and a 7-2 record. The team is also ranked among the top twenty in the state. Beyond the field, the team has garnered academic accolades as well.

The 22 senior members of the team have averaged a 24.8 on the ACT exam. The state average is 20.8. Additionally, 14 of the senior members are enrolled in honors and/or Advanced Placement courses. Four players are a part of the school's senior service outreach program, providing daily assistance at one of 15 local organizations in the area, including schools, nursing homes and hospitals. Another eight players serve the school as peer leaders, providing one on one assistance to students in freshman and sophomore courses.

"We always stress that athletes at Marist are students first," Coach Pat Dunne '98 said. "I'm proud of how hard these guys work both on and off the field."

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VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 36 Number 10

November 17, 2009

A Message from Township President Senator Louis S. Viverito

A Safe Harbor During Hard Times It's surprising how often the wisdom of the founding fathers surfaces. When they set up this country, they set up the system of township government, a system that would look after the interests of the citizens at the local level for those areas that were unincorporated. As towns sprung up across the land, township government filled a void in providing specific services that were either overlooked or were deemed unaffordable by the municipalities.

Today, Stickney Township is in a good position to weather the current economic storm. We have operated under a principle of common sense when it comes to our budgets. We offer medical, dental and social services that answer the needs of our citizens and do so without any monies owed. We provide meals and programs for our seniors in a state-of-the-art facility and deliver services to those seniors who are unable to come to us.

Operating in the black has put our Township in an enviable position. While other government bodies shoulder the weight of crushing debt, we continue to deliver services in a responsible and economic manner here in Stickney Township. As always, our Township Board meets on the second and last Monday of each month and your comments are welcome. For a schedule of meeting times and locations, contact the Township administrative offices at 708/424-9200.

Chamber To Sell 2010 CheckAwards Gift Checkbooks™

The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce will sell the second edition of its popular CheckAwards Oak Lawn Gift Checkbooks™ during the Santa on the Village Green Festival on Saturday, November 28.

During the event held at 95th and Cook Ave. from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., the Chamber will offer Gift Checkbooks on sale for $30. Each book contains gift checks – valued at more than $700 – redeemable at nearly 30 Oak Lawn mer-chants. Shoppers may present a coupon for a monetary discount applied toward their purchase when shopping or dining at any of the participating busi-nesses.

"Demand for the checkbook is growing and we're excited to let the community know about this second edition which provides even greater value than our inaugural book," says Glen Kato, president of the Oak Lawn Chamber. "More than ever, it's important that residents understand the value in shopping locally to support our hometown merchants."

Businesses featured in the 2010 book include: Archer Bank, Avenue Florist, Francesca's on 95th, Wagner's Seafood, The Gateway Motel, Beggars Pizza, Heaven Sent, Huck Finn Donuts, Les Bros. Restaurant, Liberty Tax Service, Nancy J. Koss Salon, Oak Lawn Car Wash, Oak Lawn Park District Aquatics, Y.B. Hungry, Serendipity Children's Upscale Resale Shop, SportClips, The BookEnds Café, The 95th Street Grill (in the Hilton Oak Lawn), The Children's Museum, Top Notch Beefburgers West, Touch of Sun Tanning and Vino Tinto Wine Bar.

The Chamber will provide free gift wrapping services for those that purchase a Gift Checkbook at the Santa on the Green fest. They also will offer a free, take-home holiday craft project for children.

Gift Checkbooks always are available for purchase at the Oak Lawn Chamber Office, 5314 W. 95th Street, and all Chamber events. The Chamber accepts cash, checks, Visa/MasterCard/ Discover. Email to office@oaklawnchamber.com.

Blue Star Marker in Evergreen Park

On November 11, 2009 the residents of Evergreen Park honored our service men and women who have served our country and are now serving our country. A ceremony took place by erecting a Blue Star Memorial Highway Plaque at 95th and Sawyer in Evergreen Park. The Blue Star Memorial Maker Program of the National Garden Club, Inc. began in 1945 to honor men and women serving in the Armed Forces during World War II.

Ken Kazin, the music director of the Evergreen Park High School directed several band members in the music introduction of The Colors and the National Anthem. Mayor James J. Sexton gave a speech enumerating the reasons for the marker throughout the United States of America. The markers were originated by the National Garden Clubs throughout the United States, members of the Oak Lawn and Evergreen Garden Club attended this ceremony. Also representing the Armed Forces were the Marines, Navy and Air Force.

Currently there are 57 local service men and women serving the community of Evergreen Park. Illinois is number three in the nation for erecting the most Blue Star Markers. The plaque is dedicated to them along with all those who have served and is currently serving our country in the Armed Forces. The men and women of the American Legion Post #854 of Evergreen Park, sponsored the dedication of the marker and the ceremony with an array of refreshments.

Evergreen Park sends holiday information

Santa Visits begin December 4th through Christmas Eve. Call 229-3373 beginning November 23rd to set up a visit. Dickens Christmas on 95th and Mayor Sexton's tree lighting ceremony Saturday December 5th 2-7pm 95th Street from Western to Pulaski. Call 422-1551 for information.

Mayor Sexton to give Village of Address speech

Evergreen Park residents are encouraged to come Thursday, November 19, 2009 at the Village Event Center, 9547 S. Homan Ave. Evergreen Park, Illinois. The Senior Citizens' Council hosts a luncheon - 11:30 am. Spaghetti & meatballs, salad, bread, dessert & coffee is prepared by Louise Pitluck. You can purchase tickets for $6.00 in advance OCS - 3450 W. 97th Street, Evergreen Park After a brief business meeting , followed by lunch, Mayor Sexton will address the group. For information call - 708-422-8776 .

City of Burbank links you to their health department

The City of Burbank and the Stickney Township Public Health Department are working together to address your H1N1 health related questions. H1N1 updates can be located at this link to the Stickney Health Departments Website www. stickneypublichealthdistrict.org.

Santa will be at the Township

Supervisor Jack Murphy announces that Santa Claus will be at Worth Township , 11601 S. Pulaski, Alsip beginning November 30 through December 4 and the week of December 6 through December 11. Times are 3:30 - 5:30 and 6:30 - 8:30. Santa will have a small gift for each child. Please bring a camera and get your child's picture taken with Santa Claus. There is no charge to visit Santa. Don't forget to bring Santa your wish list.

Military News

Christian R. Martinez graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash.

The 32 days of training provide the best possible professional training and evaluation for all cadets in the aspects of military life, administration and logistical support. Although continued military training and leadership development is included in the curriculum, the primary focus of the course is to develop and evaluate each cadet's officer potential as a leader by exercising the cadet's intelligence, common sense, ingenuity and physical stamina. The cadet command assesses each cadet's performance and progress in officer traits, qualities and professionalism while attending the course.

Cadets in their junior and senior year of college must complete the leadership development course. Upon successful completion of the course, the ROTC program, and graduation from college, cadets are commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army, National Guard, or Reserve.

The cadet is a student at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. He is the son of Eustolia Martinez of Collins St., Blue Island, Ill. The cadet is a 2003 graduate of Eisenhower High School, Blue Island.

Army National Guard Spec. Michael A. Rickert is returning to the 33rd Brigade, 634th Support Battalion at Joliet Armory, Illinois, after being deployed to Afghanistan to serve in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Enduring Freedom is the official name given to anti-terrorism military operations involving U.S. troops and allied coalition partners. Reserve component members from all branches of the U.S. armed forces have been mobilized, activated and deployed along with active duty members to support the war against global terrorism. Mission objectives encompass combating the international terrorist network or regime forces outside the borders of the United States. U.S. troops serve in South and Southwest Asia, Central Asia, the Arabian peninsula, the Horn of Africa, islands in the Pacific, and Europe.

Rickert is a communications section supervisor with three years of military service. He is the son of Marilyn Ricker, and Gary Rickert, both of Laporte Ave., Oak Forest, Ill.

The specialist graduated in 2000 from Oak Forest High School, and received an associate degree in 2006 from Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills, Ill.

Army Reserve Pvt. Brian A. Schopper has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission and received instruction and training exercises in drill and ceremonies, Army history, military justice, physical fitness, map reading, foot marches, and field training exercises.

He is the son of Beth Anderson of W. Otto Place. Oak Lawn, Ill. He is a graduate of Oak Lawn High School.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Open enrollment begins for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Nicor Gas urges eligible customers to apply

Open enrollment for LIHEAP has begun and Nicor Gas is urging eligible customers who may need financial assistance with paying their energy costs to apply as soon as possible because funds are limited.

With colder winter weather starting to arrive and continued price volatility in the natural gas market, customers should financially plan for their upcoming heating needs which may include LIHEAP. For the month of November, Nicor Gas has filed a gas supply charge (GSC) of $.47 per therm with the Illinois Commerce Commission, up 8 cents compared to October. The cost Nicor Gas pays for natural gas is passed through to customers with no mark-up; the company does not make a profit on the cost of natural gas.

"With the possibility of rising natural gas costs, LIHEAP can be the bridge that makes ends meet for many customers in need," said Kevin Kirby , Vice President Customer Care for Nicor Gas. "For those customers who do not qualify for LIHEAP, the Nicor Gas Sharing program may provide them with some assistance."

LIHEAP is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the State of Illinois. The program is administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and assists eligible low-income households pay their energy bills. Assistance is presented to qualifying applicants in one annual payment. Income, household size, fuel type, and geographic location determine the amount of assistance. To qualify, household monthly income cannot exceed 150 percent of the federally established poverty level. For more information or to apply for assistance, go to www.lihcapillinois.com, or call the toll-free LIHEAP information line at 1-877-411-9276.

The Nicor Gas Sharing program, administered by the Salvation Army, provides one-time annual grants up to $450 to qualified residential customers. The program is funded by direct contributions from customers, employees, and Nicor Gas which contributes $175,000 annually. To qualify, household monthly income may not exceed 200 percent of the federally established poverty level. Sharing Program applicants must apply in-person at Salvation Army offices. For a list of Salvation Army offices, call

1-888-Nicor4U (1-888-642-6748) or visit www.nicorgas.com and click on "financial assistance."

For additional information about managing gas costs, please visit www.nicorgas.com.

MWRD congratulated themselves while taxpayers get a bad deal

Reform MWRD candidate calls for an end to pinstripe patronage and backroom business.

Todd Connor, a Navy veteran and former investigator for the Illinois Inspector General's office, called for an end to insider deals, patronage and cronyism that have cost taxpayers millions. He gave his comments following a Metropolitan Water Reclamation District meeting this morning that addressed yet another example of taxpayer waste.

In a meeting this morning the MWRD re-addressed a $600 million bond deal that was awarded to Mesirow Financial. Arthur Levitt, former SEC chair, criticized the MWRD for making a "bad deal" that left $68 million on the table, leading to questions such as; Why did we over-pay? What process is used to select Sr. managers and sub-managers for deals of this size? Why Mesirow? According to Connor, "the answers to these questions are shocking."

Both Cook County and the State of Illinois have a strict RFP process in place to protect taxpayers. At an agency that is responsible for managing over $1.6 billion of taxpayer's money, the best government practices should be installed at every turn. Yet, Connor notes that "unlike other agencies, the MWRD goes in a backroom and makes handshake deals while taxpayers are left holding the bag.

When awarding a deal, a senior manager is selected by the MWRD staff and each Commissioner selects a sub-manager. The criterion used to make these selections, if any, is not available to the public. Connor believes "taxpayers deserve merit-based decisions with clear performance metrics and scoring criterion available for public serutiny."

At today's meeting, Financial Consultant, Daniel Kaplan, offered expert testimony, including detailed financial analysis, concluding, "this was a very lucrative deal for underwriters and investors, and a very poor deal for the taxpayers of the District." The fact that Mesirow is not ranked among the top 25 firms in the Securities Data Index, and does not usually handle deals of this size, should raise questions as to why the firm was selected. According to Connor, "the problem is that these questions needed to asked before the deal was approved, not after the taxpayers money has been lost." Even in the face of expert testimony and questions by Commissioners, the MWRD staff patted themselves on the back in self-congratulations for a deal well done, while the taxpayers were the ones who paid.

Frustrated by what he witnessed in the meeting, Connor reiterated; "we cannot afford to have elected officials who are interested in backroom business or pinstripe patronage, but rather, we need Commissioners who are able to speak up, ask the right questions and make decisions solely based on the taxpayer's interest." Connor plans to lay out his five-point plan for reform at the MWRD in the coming weeks.

IRS Has $3.6 Million in Refund Checks for 3,600 Illinois Residents

The Internal Revenue Service is looking for nearly 3,600 Illinois taxpayers who are due refund checks worth more than $3.6 million. The checks were returned to the IRS by the U.S. Postal Service as undeliverable.

"In Illinois , the average undeliverable refund is $1023," said Sue Hales, IRS spokesperson for Illinois . "We'd like to get this money back to taxpayers as quickly as possible. All we need is an updated address and we can reissue the check."

Nationwide, 107,831 refunds totaling $123.5 million were returned to the IRS. Undeliverable refund checks average $1,148 this year, compared to $990 last year. Some taxpayers are due more than one check.

Average undeliverable refunds rose by 16 percent this year. Several changes in tax law likely played a role in boosting refunds, including the First-Time Homebuyer's Credit and the Recovery Rebate Credit.Taxpayers can find out if they are due a tax refund by visiting the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov and clicking on "Where's My Refund." To use this feature, enter information from the 2008 tax return including the Social Security number, filing status and refund amount. Taxpayers will get the status of their refund check and in some cases get instructions to resolve delivery problems.

Taxpayers can also check on the status of their refund by calling 1-800-829-1954. Taxpayers checking on a refund by phone will be given instructions on how to update their address. available for both paper and e-filed returns.

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Our Children Our Government Program

On Friday, November 6, 8th grade students from Southwest Chicago Christian School participated in the "Our Children, Our Government" program at Oak Lawn Village Hall. Pictured standing from left to right are Fire Division Chief Steve Rockey, Communications Interim Director Kathy Hansen, Mayor Dave Heilmann, students Tom Iwema, Annamarie Karinia, Alec Rigik, Clerk Jane Quinlan and Police Chief Bill Villanova.

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The Chicago Southland Chamber holds annual Holiday Luncheon

The Chicago Southland Chamber's Annual Holiday Sports Luncheon & Auction sponsored by Bimba Manufacturing Company will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2009, at The Odyssey Country Club, 19110 S. Ridgeland Ave. in Tinley Park, Illinois from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. 10:30 a.m. Registration, Networking & Silent Auction opens for bidding. 12:00 noon guests will be seated for a formal plated luncheon.

At 12:30 p.m. guest speaker, David Kaplan, host of WGN Radio-Sports Central, host of Comcast Sports Net-Chicago Tribune Live and Play-by-Play Commentator for college football and basketball on ESPN will give a 30 minute presentation followed by audience Q & A. Admission is $40 per person or $390 per table of 10 or Co-Host the luncheon for only $500. A cash bar will be available at the luncheon.

Advanced reservations are recommended to guarantee a seat. Call the Chamber at 708-957-6950 or visit www.chicagosouthland.com Reservations must be canceled 48 hours before the event to receive refund.

Breakfast With Santa Benefits Family Assistance Program at Advocate Hope Children's Hospital

Santa Claus is coming to town Sunday, December 6 to be the guest of honor at the Hearts for Hope "Breakfast With Santa" fundraiser at the historic Ridge Country Club in Chicago, IL.

Tickets cost $15 for children and $20 for adults. Participants may make reservations for one of two seatings offered at 9 a.m. and noon. There will be a full breakfast buffet with an omelet station, along with a variety of family-friendly entertainment and activities, including a storyteller, crafts and pictures with Santa Claus. Attendees are asked to share the joy of the season by donating a new, unwrapped toy for the children at Hope Children's Hospital.

The proceeds from this event will go to the family Assistance Fund maintained by Hearts for Hope for the young patients and families served by Advocate Hope Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn, IL.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Sarah Nassin, development coordinator, at 708-684-5231. To learn more about the Hearts for Hope charity organization, visit www.hearts-for-hope.org.

About Hearts for Hope: Hearts for Hope is a volunteer group comprised of grateful parents, concerned families and caring community members dedicated to: Making positive impacts on the lives of patients and families at Advocate Hope Children's Hospital through hands-on volunteering and involvement at the hospital; Supporting specific medical and non-medical needs throughout Hope by raising funds and awareness through philanthropic events and activities; Helping create a child-centered environment of compassion, comfort and healing inside the doors of Hope.

Happy Thanksgiving

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Time: 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Fee: $15.00
Location: Community Center

Yoga classes are offered
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Wednesday 10:00-11:00 a.m. and 8:00-9:15
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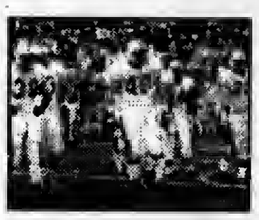

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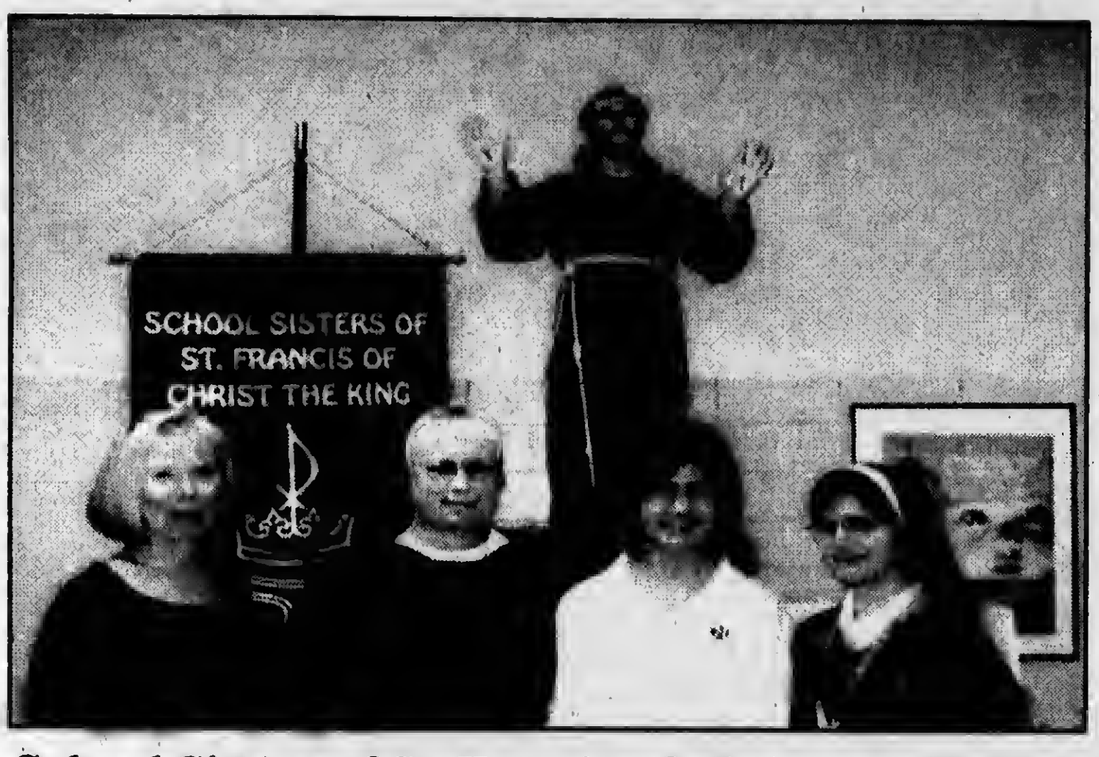

School Sisters of St. Francis of Christ the King announce money earmarked for scholarships

Mount Assisi Academy President K. Tina Donahue '64 is joined by (left to right) School Sisters of St. Francis of Christ the King (SSFCR) North American Provincial Superior Sister M. Patricia Kolenda '62; 2009 Freshman Entrance Exam Scholarship Recipient Mary Kate Feldner of Orland Park; and MAA Principal Sister Mary Francis Werner in celebrating the announcement of the Sisters' $100,000 gift to MAA in support of scholarships. The gift coincides with the 100th anniversary of the Sisters' ministry in the United States, and will benefit both incoming freshmen and current students. The Sisters' generous six-figure gift will include $30,000 earmarked for Freshmen Entrance Examination Scholarships, the awarding of which will be based on exam scoring.

Worth Township is accepting used coats

Worth Township is accepting "gently used" coats for its Christmas Care Program. These coats are available to families in need. Families can come to Worth Township, 11601 S. Pulaski, Alsip, and pick up coats.

Coats are received from residents, schools, and different agencies. Coats are donated between November 2 and December 11. Coats are available on the 2nd Floor.

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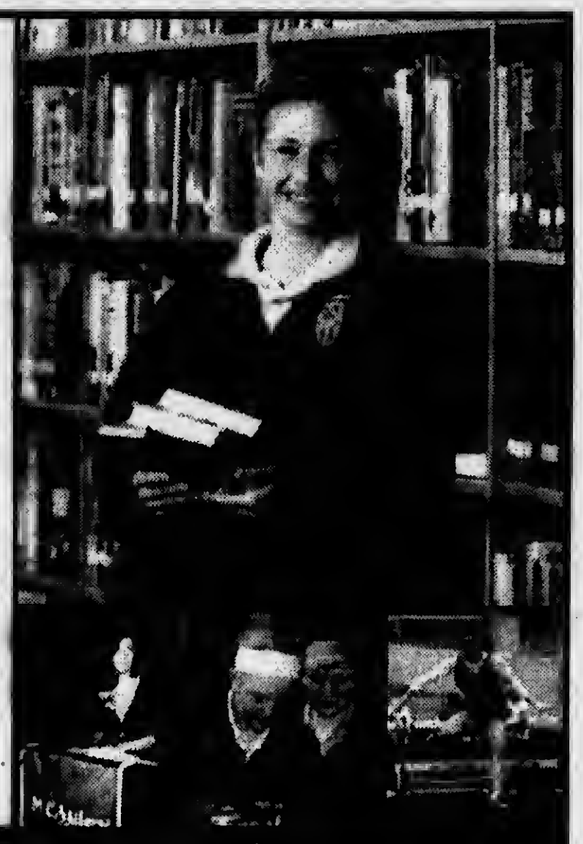
Girls' Night Out
A night of games & activities for 7th & 8th grade girls
Friday, Dec 11, 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Entrance Exam
Saturday, Jan 9, 8am



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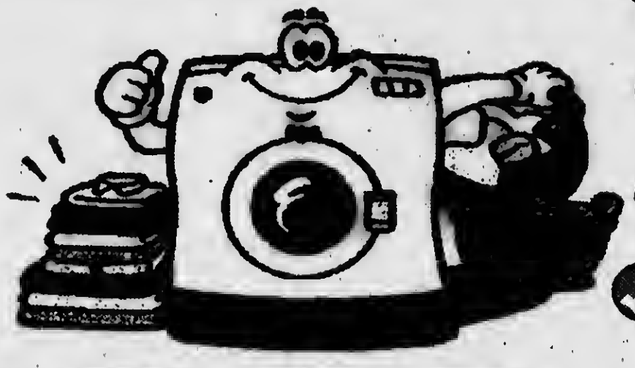

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Happy Thanksgiving from the Staff of Village View Newspapers

Theatre Performances prior to December 15

A must see is The New Mel Brooks musical **Young Frankenstein.** Tony award winners Roger Bart and Shuler Hensley were exciting to see and Roger Bart was very entertaining. **Young Frankstein** was the typical Mel Brooks humor and his professional style of directing. This was a laugh a minute, and it was wonderful to be there.

Tickets for **Young Frankenstein** range in price from $30 o $95. Tickets are available at all Broadway in Chicago Box Offices, 24 W. Randolph St., 151 W. Randolph St. and 18 W Monroe St. Broadway in Chicago ticket Line at 800-775-2000. Also available at Hot Tix and select Carson Pirie Scott or online at www.BroadwayInChicago.com.

another play that consisted of quite a few laughs was **High Holidays** at the Goodman Theatre.

High Holidays runs from October 31st until November 29th. This is a great family play with the characters Plotzing (going crazy).

Being a Goy (non Jewish person) this play was superb in demonstrating what took place in the 60's with families trying to get their children ready for Bar Mitzvahs.

I thoroughly enjoyed this play for all the humor and traditonal settings and dialogue the director brought into it.

Max Zuppa (Billy) makes his Goodman debut, but remember his name. He will be a name you will hear often in the future. He is in 8th grade and only 13 and what an excellent performance this young man gave.

I was sitting at the edge of my seat watching him.

Chester Brandes is President and CEO of Imperial Brands, Inc. a spirits and wine import company, wholly owned by Belvedere S.A. He introduced two new flavors of **Sobieski Vodka** at the Drawing Room, 937 N. Rush St.

It was told to me that Sobieski entered Chicago market two years ago. This company is only 10 years old and is doing quite well in South America, Europe, and now America.

Charles Joy is chief Mixologist at the Drawing Room mixed samples of the two newest flavors in two distinct drinks, Sobieski Prestige with Sobieski Cytron, Aperol and Scotch and Golden Autumn with Sobieski Vanilia.

After attending this event it was time to visit Faith-Whiskey at 1365 W. Fullerton for more samples, this time Whiskey. Well being a taster can be fun.

Annette Dixon

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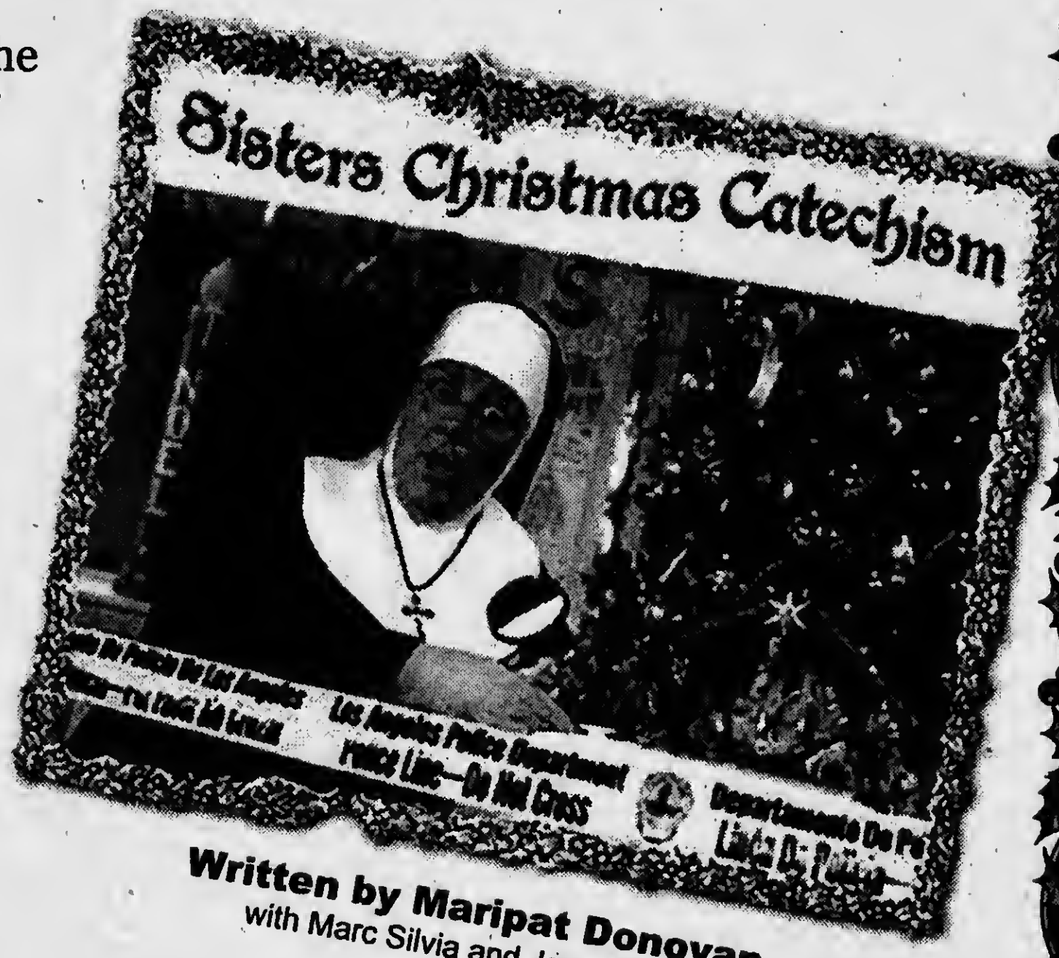
Summit, IL 60501
Doors Open at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner: 6:15 p.m.
Show: 7:30 p.m.
Ticket Price for dinner & show $30
Show Tickets: $20.00
Cash Bar



Written by Maripat Donovan
with Marc Silvia and Jane Morris

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Southwest Community Services Cordially Invites You to...
"An Afternoon of Holiday Shopping"
Sunday, December 6th, 12:00 to 4:00 pm
Located in the Multi-Purpose Room.
Featuring vendors, crafters, raffles, pull tabs, concessions, designer purses, jewelry, candles, holiday decorations, specialty food items and more!
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6775 Prosperi Drive in Tinley Park, located at the southern end of Oak Park Avenue, across from CarMax and just north of the First Midwest Bank Amphitheater. Wheel chair accessible. Free Parking. Admission is $2.00.
To inquire about vendor space, please visit www.swcsinc.org or call 708-429-1200 ext. 1243.

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Obituaries

Lawrence R. Gruzlewski, age 59: beloved husband of Janice nee Ronspies: loving father of Lisa: dear son of Adeline [late Raymond]: fond brother of the late Terrance [Theo] Gruzlewski: dear brother in law of Gerry [Marcia] Ronspies: uncle of Matt and Doug.

Residence of Mt. Greenwood, IL. Occupation was Restaurant Health Inspector. Funeral Service was at the Kosary Funeral Home at 9837 South Kedzie, Evergreen Park, IL.

[708] 499-3223. In lieu of flowers donations appreciated to American Heart Association.

Christopher J. Soich, age 27; loving son of Daniel R. and Carole A nee Miller; dearest grandson of the late Harry and the late Rosemary Miller; also the late Richard [LaVerne] Soich; also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins, and good friends fond friend of Theresa. Member of the Local 17 Heat & Frost Insulators. Proud owner of Simba.

Services was at Kosary Funeral Home in Evergreen Park, IL. to Queen of Martyrs Church for Mass of Christian Burial.

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Attorney Michael J. Maslanka, 312-641-2424 or michael.maslanka@sgmclegal.com

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Far South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 22

November 17, 2009

Treasure Chest Foundation brings new twist to city's annual tree lighting ceremony and parade

The City of Oak Forest's annual tree lighting ceremony and parade on Saturday, December 12 will take on new meaning this year thanks to the inaugural Santa Claus Fun Run and ToyDrive to benefit the Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation.

"Anyone can be Santa for a day by donating toys to children fighting cancer," said Mayor Hank Kuspa. "Our town is known for its volunteerism and goodwill, and what better way to show it than tocontribute to a very worthy cause during the holiday season."

The fun run will follow the traditional holiday parade that will kick off at Oak Forest High School, 151st and Central Avenue, at 11 a.m. and proceed down Central Avenue to City Hall, 15440 S. Central Avenue, where the tree lighting ceremony will take place. Anyone can participate in the fun run – all you need is a new toy donation and some holiday cheer.

As usual, Oak Forest families, businesses and community groups are invited to show off their decorating abilities in the trim-a-tree contest. Following the awards presentation, participants can visit with Santa Claus and enjoy hot cocoa and cookies at Fire Station 1, 5620 James Drive. For more information or to register for the trim-a-tree contest, parade or fun run, please contact Chrissy Maher at 708-687-4050, ext. 1043 or cmaher@oak-forest.org or visit www.oak-forest.org.

Oak Forest resident Colleen Kisel founded the organization in 1996 after her then 7-year-old son Martin had been diagnosed with leukemia in 1993. Kisel discovered that giving her son a toy after each procedure provided a calming distraction from his pain. Kisel noted that when a child is diagnosed with cancer his or her world soon becomes filled with doctors, nurses, chemo-therapy drugs, surgeries, and seemingly endless painful procedures. Martin's treatment for leukemia lasted three years and was followed by an additional year of procedures to check for the recurrence of cancer. Today, Martin celebrates his 16th year of remission from the disease.

Orland Township Pantry needs your help

Each month the Food Pantry has been providing food for over 500 in our community. However, the donations are going down and we are reaching out to our fellow Chamber members to see if we can get your support during the holidays. There are three ways in which you and your staff or customers can assist in our efforts to provide food for the Holidays. · Option 1 - partner with us to gather enough food to for a family of four. We will provide grocery bags with a contents needed 8 x 10 sticker on the front of the bag. We would also like to add your name or logo to the bag. This will be a means to show the recipient family of your support.

· Option 2 - The cost of the non-perishable foods on the list is approximately $25.00 or $35.00 with a gift card for a turkey or ham. If you would prefer to collect money and sponsor a family or more, please feel free to take advantage of this opt·

Option 3 - Participate in this program and the Gifts Adopt-A-Family program where families sign up at the Township office and provide a list of items they would wish for during the Holidays.

Please feel free to contact Joe McNicholas at 708-403-4222 x233. All donation items are tax deductible and the Food Pantry can provide receipts upon request.

Tinley Park discusses real estate contract

by Matt Mayer

Officials at the Nov. 17 Tinley Park Board of Trustees meeting considered authorizing an ordinance regarding a real-estate contract with Lincoln- Way Community High School District 210 for the purchase of property located at the southwest corner of 194th Street and Harlem Avenue.

Under the terms of the contract, the village secures the ability to purchase land from SD 210 for the purpose of controlling and initiating the development of the property. Over the past two years SD 210 conducted a public auction and identified a potential purchaser for the land. However, an acceptable annexation agreement and site plan was never approved and the purchase contract expired.

Through the villages home rule authority, the village desired to acquire the property from SD 210 so the village can best control who the property is sold to, as well as, dictat34e development standards such as building location, building materials, landscaping, access points, etc. Under the purchase agreement, the village is required to pay a $50,000 earnest fee that will secure a twenty-four month due diligence period, during which the village can identify a developer to purchase the property.

The contract purchase price is $7.5 million. If the village cannot identify an acceptable developer, the village then has an option of allowing the contract to lapse at the end of the twenty-four month period without incurring any further expense. This ordinance is eligible for first reading.

Clerk Pat Rea, Commander Steve Vaccaro, Mayor Ed Zabrocki, Willie Winters, Cook County Sheriff's Office and graduates Arrie Arrigoni and Charlotte Arrigoni.

Sheriff's office offers the Senior Citizen Law Enforcement Academy

The Tinley Park Police Department and the Cook County Sheriff's Office co-sponsored the Senior Citizen Law Enforcement Academy. The academy was held each Monday from September 14th thru November 2nd for seven weeks with the exception of Columbus Day. Fifty-six graduates were presented with certificates on November 2, 2009 in a ceremony at the Village of Tinley Park Kallsen Center by Mayor Zabrocki, Clerk Patrick Rea, and Commander Steve Vaccaro along with representative from the Cook County Sheriff's Office Willie Winters.

Academy participants were able to hear representatives of the Tinley Park Police Department including Chief Michael J. O'Connell, Patrol Commander Rick Bruno, Investigator Ray Violetto and Emergency Management Agency Director Pat Carr along with Administration, Commanders, Investigators and K-9 Officer from the Cook County Sheriff's Office. Katie Walsh coordinated the program from the Cook County Sheriff's Office along with Dina L. Navas, Crime Prevention Officer from the Tinley Park Police Department.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 22

November 17, 2009

SWSRA Candlelight Bowl proves to be a success

South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA) would like to thank everyone who participated or made a contribution to SWSRA's 2009 Candlelight Bowl Fundraiser that was held on Saturday, November 7th, at Orland Bowl.

Over 100 bowlers took on the crazy bowling challenges and enjoyed the buffet, raffles and split-the-deck.

SWSRA thanks all donors and sponsors for helping SWSRA raise funds and also staff and volunteers who helped make this event successful!

SWSRA is a non-profit organization that provides year-round recreation for individuals with special needs. For more information about SWSRA services, please contact the SWSRA office at (708) 389-9423.

Palos Heights approves LED sign ordinance

By Matt Mayer

Officials approved an ordinance at the November 3 Palos Heights City Council meeting changing the verbiage of the municipal code pertaining to LED signs to include the following restrictions. The maximum percentage of spaec to be utilized for LED's is 60-percent of the sign; LED's must be limited to one color on a black backdrop; illumination of any LED sign is limited to 5,000 NITS during regular business hours. This ordinance was prompted by the recently constructed CVS Pharmacy, which will contain an LED sign.

Other highlights: The city council approved an ordinance amending a section of the municipal code regarding fees in order to match another section. The ordinance adds the clause "plus the cost of legal and engineering fees as well as the cost of publication incurred by the city to review the proposed amendment". An ordinance was approved for a variation in fence height from 6 ft to 10 ft at two athletic fields, one at 12001 S. Oak Park Avenue and the other at the Chicago Christian High School as well as an ordinance for a 3 ft front yard setback variation to allow for the construction of an open porch at 12423 S. 74th Avenue.

The city council approved a bid for a Rubber Tire Skid Steer Loader submitted by Martin Implement for $32,390.00. The low bidder was Atlas, however after the city reviewed the bids, it was discovered that Atlas failed to meet the required specifications. Therefore, the city chose the next lowest bidder, Martin Implement.

A Salvation Army request to conduct their annual Red Kettle campaign in the city from November 13 to December 26 was also approved.

Together We Cope launches Adopt-a-Child holiday program

This recession could be the Grinch that finally steals Christmas.

That is the assessment of officials at Together We Cope as the agency launches its annual Adopt-a-Child program. Each year at the holiday, TWC matches children in need with a local business, organization, church or individual who answers the child's Christmas wishes and gives them a holiday when their families cannot.

"We have identified nearly 3,000 children in the south suburbs who could wake up Christmas morning to a cold and bleak day. They are the children of families who have been hit hard by this recession, families who have no hope of a traditional holiday celebration," said Kathryn Straniero, executive director of TWC.

Straniero said job loss; foreclosure, eviction and illness are some of the issues that have triggered crisis in many families in the current weak economy. She said the agency has seen a dramatic increase in people seeking help from the TWC food pantry.

Last year the agency served a record number of needy children with a total of 1,067 youngsters receiving gifts for the holiday. Suellen Wolk, community relations coordinator at TWC, said this year's list contains all new names. "It's a measure of how deep this recession is, that we can identify so many new families in need this year," she said. "In fact, something we saw on children's wish lists a number of times last year was a request for mom or dad to find a job. That was something new to us."

Sponsors of needy children in previous years have reported the program gave them a new dimension to their own holiday celebrations and a deeper appreciation of the spirit of the season. Information on sponsorship is available from Suellen Wolk at swolk@togetherwecope.org or Tina Kessens at tkessens@togetherwecope.org.

Together We Cope is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency that assists families in temporary crisis from Bremen , Orland, Palos and Worth townships. TWC operates a food pantry and resale shop, and also can help with rent or heating bills.

Moraine Valley presents Benny Goodman tribute

Allan Vache presents A Benny Goodman Centennial Tribute, Saturday, November 21 at 7:30 p.m. in Moraine Valley Community College's Dorothy Menker Theater, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills.

Benny Goodman's clarinet helped define a whole new style of music in the 1930s: Swing. His classic recordings of popular songs and dance music, so powerful and exciting then, still captivate us today. This upbeat, toe-tapping show highlights a superb quintet featuring jazz singer Rebecca Kilgore's exuberant vocals, the elegant stride mastery of pianist Phil Flanigan and the exciting, hot swing playing of acclaimed clarinetist Allan Vaché. Joined by two other musicians on bass and percussion, they spotlight the many great female vocalists who sang with the Goodman band (including Billie Holiday, Peggy Lee, Helen Ward, Martha Tilton, Mildred Bailey, Helen Forrest and Ella Fitzgerald), Teddy Wilson's unforgettable piano playing, Fletcher Henderson's inspired arrangements, and the evolution of Benny Goodman from sideman to Swing Era star. Tickets are $25 for adults, $20 for seniors and $15 for students. To order tickets, call or stop by the Moraine Valley Box Office at (708) 974-5500. Box Office hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., or visit the Moraine Valley Web site at www.morainevalley.edu/fpac.

Worth Park District to host fun events for the whole family

The Worth Park District is excited to announce a number of upcoming, family friendly activities including a youth basketball league, Parent-Child Turkey Shoot, Christmas Tea at the Museum, Christmas Craft Workshop, Woodfield Christmas Shopping Trip and some Snowboarding Adventure.

The basketball league is a co-op between the Worth Park District, Palos Park Recreation Department and the Palos Heights Recreation Department. The league will have boy and girl divisions and will emphasize play while developing skills. Each child will have one practice per week and play in at least half a game each week while learning the value of teamwork. The fee per player is $ 100.00 resident and $ 120.00 non-resident if you register before December 1 and $ 120.00 resident and $ 140.00 non-resident after draft day. Team practices are held once a week Tuesday-Friday. There will be a $ 20.00 charge for participants that drop or register for this program once the draft has taken place. Register at the Worth Park District at 11500 S. Beloit.

For information regarding any of the activites mentioned above, please call the Worth Park District at (708) 448-7080 or visit www.worthparkdistrict.org. Worth Park District is located at 11500 S. Beloit (3 Blocks West of Harlem on 115th Street).

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

B-MAC EDITION

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 22

Novemeber 17, 2009

Good news: MetroSouth is back on the tax rolls, but...

Hospital still open

Last year, St. Francis Hospital remained open when new owners took over, with the expectation that Cook County taxes would be reclassified.

Bad news

For over 100 years, the hospital didn't pay any property taxes at all, so while MetroSouth is asking for a reduction in its property tax bill, it will still be one of the biggest property tax payers in area. This is a win-win for everyone because we raise important revenue for local services but we help keep our hospital financially strong.

We need your help!

Today, we need the help of business and community leaders to show support for MetroSouth Medical Center.

What can you do?

Sign the online petition and send an email to county officials. The petition can be signed digitally by visiting, www..SupportSouthland HealthCare.org

This information has been provided by Greg Lochow, Executive Director of MetroSouth Medical Center.

To Snoop or Not to Snoop

By Ann Polodna, LCPC, Therapist at Associated Counseling in Midlothian

When is snooping infringing on your child's rights and when is it a necessary evil of parenting?

The simple answer is snooping might be the only way you can keep your child safe when you suspect that he or she might be doing something that could be harmful such as drugs. If the word "snooping" bothers you, then call it "fact-finding" if it makes you feel better. The bottom line is your job as a parent is to keep your kids safe, not win a popularity contest. It is your home and you set the rules. Though you want to respect your teen's right to privacy, it can never be at the expense of his or her safety.

One guideline for parents is if you notice a change in your child's behavior, unusual odors, or air fresheners or candles suddenly being used, you might have some reason to justify your search. If your teen has been reasonably well-behaved and you have no reason to suspect that he or she is using drugs or alcohol, then snooping is probably an infringement on his or her privacy

An ounce of prevention is always the best approach. Keep kids anchored in healthy activities and relationships that they really care about. Kids who have passionate interests going through adolescence tend to have a sober path. As a parent, support your child and keep communication open before adolescence begins.

If you opt for snooping (or fact-finding), remember, teens can be pretty creative. Be sure to check: drawers, between clothes, CDs,

DVDs, Video cases, backpacks, purses, under beds, plants (yes, even in the dirt), between books, inside books, in make-up bags or in make-up, under loose floor boards, inside over-the-counter medications, and inside empty candy bags. And don't forget about the computer and cell phones to see if there are new friends you haven't heard of before.

If you find drugs, alcohol or drug paraphernalia, don't skirt the topic. It must be dealt with swiftly and firmly. The rule must be No drugs, no alcohol, no exceptions. For steps to take when talking with your teen about suspected drug use, visit www.drugfree.org.

Worth Township Youth Commission sponsors "Christmas Care"

Worth Township Youth Commission is again sponsoring its "Christmas Care" program for families experiencing financial difficulties. Through the generous donations of township residents, Worth Township has helped hundreds of families. New toys and "gently used" coats will be accepted by the Youth Commission at its office, 11601 South Pulaski, Alsip , Il., now through Friday, December 11, 2009. This program gives an opportunity for churches, schools, businesses, civic groups and private families to work together to help those in need in their own community.

Please call our office, 371-2900, ext. 45, if there is any question.

Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library announces upcoming activities

Secrets of Selling On eBay: Thursday, November 19, at 7:00 PM. This program will inform you of the ins and outs of selling on eBay. Vivienne Porter of C3 Solutions returns to our library to show you the basics like how to establish a seller's account and how you can keep track of what you're selling. She will do a live demo of the process of placing an item for sale on the most famous internet auction web site.

Basic PC Maintenance Class: Friday, Nov. 13, 10AM-2PM, 4 hours and Friday, Nov. 20, 10AM-2PM, 4 hours

John Hojek, will be your instructor. There is a limit of 16 persons per class. These classes are supported in part by a grant from the institute of Museum & Library Science. The library also thanks Illinois Congressman Bobby Rush who secured grant funds for this project as part of a congressional initiative.

Food & Toy Drive: November 16 through Decemmber 23. The library is proud to sponsor our Eight Annual Food and Toy Drive . We will be collecting non-perishable food items, new unwrapped toys, and monetary donations. Worth Township will distribute these items to area families who are in need. For additional information, please contact the Adult Services Department.

Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library District, 11960 S. Pulaski Road. To register call the Adult Services Department at, (708)371-5666 exts. 108 or 109.

Associated Counseling to sponsor job seeking seminar

Associated Counseling, 4500 W. 147th Street, Midlothian, is sponsoring a free 90-minute seminar on job seeking on Thursday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. The program, called "Job Seeking in Turbulent Times: will be presented by a career strategist.

During the seminar, topics will be discussed including as creating a resume that highlights your skills; developing a strategy to effectively promote a job seekers top attributes; how to get the most out of job Internet and social media sites; how to work with recruiters; and using today's news to find tomorrow's opportunities.

Space is limited and reservations must be made by calling 708-917-5073.

Associated Counseling provides a wide array of services for all. Clinicians and experts provide the best mental health services.

Blue Island Public Library to host H1N1 Lecture

MetroSouth Medical Center is sponsoring a H1N1 Lecture. MetroSouth will welcome Dr. Miranda Huffman who will educate the public regarding the facts and myths of the infections disease. Amongst the topics presented will be prevention and vaccine distribution. WednesdayNovember 18th, 7pm at Blue Island Library 2433 York Street, general public.

For more information about this event and others just call 708-388-1078

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

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VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 36 Number 11 December 1, 2009

Evergreen Park doubles gasoline tax

By Matt Mayer

Officials at the Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting approved an ordinance which amends a section regarding tax imposed and a section of a chapter regarding licenses, taxation and miscellaneous business regulations, division 2, regarding vehicle fuel tax of the municipal code. This equates to an increase of the gasoline tax from the present 3-cents to 6-cents a gallon beginning Dec 1.

Mayor James Sexton said that this is a method to help our ailing budget it's not something we relish doing, but in order to keep the village operating, we need to rely on some new methods of revenue. "With sales tax, income dollars, real-estate transfer taxes down, you name it, it's all down but, I think people are still pumping gas," Sexton said.

Sexton said in another attempt to bring in revenue, the village will be putting three village owned properties on the market. The village owned properties are: 9125 S Pulaski, the former Emerald Park Nursing Home, 9050 S Kedzie and a residential sized lot adjacent to the former Christian Reformed Church at 9545 S Homan Avenue. The building commissioner will act as the real-estate agent, Sexton said. The board approved the request - the final sales of the individual properties will need board approval.

A request to change health insurance carriers for village employees was approved as well as a request for membership dues for the Illinois Municipal League. A request from Police Chief Saunders for Peter Arestis to participate in Police Departments College Student Internship Program was also approved. The month of December was proclaimed "Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month".

Dicken's Christmas lights up 95th Street

Join us on Saturday December 5th, 2-6pm, as we transform 95th Street into a Victorian Christmas event.

Ride the Holly Trolley from Pulaski to Western Ave. for a free ride to your favorite shopping destinations.

Visit our local merchants for holiday treats and special promotions. Visit Santa Claus and his live reindeer at 95th and Ridgeway. Enjoy a sleigh ride at 95th and Homan.

Mayor Sexton will light the Village Christmas tree at 6pm at Klein Park on 97th and Homan. Local choirs will perform at Klein Park as well: 4:00 pm - EP High School, 5:30 pm - Central Jr. High, 6:00 pm - Mother McAuley Choir.

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas presents an award of excellence in her downtown Chicago office to the founders of the Midnight Circus, Jeff Jenkins and Julie Greenberg, and their son Max, for their ongoing commitment to training new circus artists and for continually entertaining the Chicagoland community.

SWSRA Support Group in Summit

South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA) is starting Support Group meetings at the Summit Public Library, 6233 S. Archer Rd., beginning Monday, December 27th, from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Each month, support group meetings will include a new topic and speaker that would be of interest to parents or caregivers of individuals with special needs.

This month, Summit and Justice invite parents or caregivers to enjoy a fun-filled Christmas social. Snacks and beverages will be included. This is a great opportunity to meet SWSRA staff and individuals in the community.

The sign-up deadline is noon on Friday, December 4th. Please RSVP by contacting the SWSRA office in Summit at (708) 997-2740. If you would also like free childcare for your special needs child during the meeting, please inform the SWSRA office in Summit when you RSVP.

If you work for an organization that would be interested in speaking at one of SWSRA's support group meetings, please contact the SWSRA office in Summit .

Hometown-Murray VFW to host GI breakfast

Hometown-Murray VFW will host a GI Breakfast on Sunday, December 6th from 8am-Noon. It is located at 9092 Main St. Hometown, IL. The cost will be $5.00 per person. The menu includes eggs, sausage, bacon, pancakes, Kurysz's 'homemade' hash brown potatoes, toast, juice and coffee. The Special of the day is Commander Kirby's SOS- 'The Soldier's Breakfast.' What is it? You'll have to come on out and find out!

Dine in - carry out, for more information call 708-422-9800.

Oak Lawn Public Library to host holiday family fun

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will host a free family program featuring story "Holidays Around the World" Sunday, December 6 from 3-3:45 p.m.

Join the Kidworks Touring Theatre Company as they bring to life holiday traditions celebrated around the globe. Participants will act out the first Christmas Tree story from Germany, play the Chanukah Dreidel game, beat the drum in our African-American Kwanzaa ceremony, sing Feliz Navidad and parade under the Dragon in our Chinese New Year celebration. This program is intended for children age four and up. No advance registration required. All children must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Library Seeks Input from Teens

Students in grades six through 10 are invited to participate on the Oak Lawn Public Library Teen Advisory Board 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, December 9. Teens can earn volunteer service hours while sharing ideas and suggestions to help the library better serve people in that age group. The group holds regular meetings on the third Wednesday of each month during the school year. No registration required. Light refreshments are provided.

The Library, will also host a Yu-Gi-Oh game event Thursday, December 10 from 4-5 p.m. Students in grades three and up may bring their own set of Yu-Gi-Oh cards to play with others. No registration required. Lower level meeting room.

Bring holiday joy to those less fortunate by participating in a "Toys for Tots" drive sponsored by the Oak Lawn Public Library. Gifts for children up to age 12 may be dropped off in the library's lobby from Friday, November 27 through Wednesday, December 23. Items should be unwrapped so that they may be sorted according to age and gender. No stuffed animals, please.

The Friends of the Oak Lawn Library sponsor two discussion groups that meet once a month, September through May, at the Oak Lawn Public Libraryt.

Short story discussions are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. They will meet December 9 to discuss "A Christmas Memory" by Truman Capote and January 13 for "The Ransom of Red Chief" by O. Henry. Copies of these short stories may be picked up one month in advance at the Help Desk.

Book discussions are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of most months. However, there will be no book discussion meeting in December, due to the holiday season. The group will meet January 27 to discuss "The Call of the Wild" by Jack London. Copies of this book may be checked out one month in advance at the Circulation Desk.

For additional information, on any events 708-422-2390.

First-Time Homebuyer Credit extended to April 30, 2010

Current homeowners may also qualify.

A new law that went into effect Nov. 6 extends the first-time homebuyer credit five months and expands the eligibility requirements for purchasers.

The Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 extends the deadline for qualifying home purchases from Nov. 30, 2009, to April 30, 2010. Additionally, if a buyer enters into a binding contract by April 30, 2010, the buyer has until June 30, 2010, to settle on the purchase.

The maximum credit amount remains at $8,000 for a first-time homebuyer — that is, a buyer who has not owned a primary residence during the three years up to the date of purchase.

But the new law also provides a "long-time resident" credit of up to $6,500 to others who do not qualify as "first-time homebuyers." To qualify this way, a buyer must have owned and used the same home as a principal or primary residence for at least five consecutive years of the eight-year period ending on the date of purchase of a new home as a primary residence.

For all qualifying purchases in 2010, taxpayers have the option of claiming the credit on either their 2009 or 2010 tax returns.

A new version of Form 5405, First-Time Homebuyer Credit, will be available in the next few weeks. A taxpayer who purchases a home after Nov. 6 must use this new version of the form to claim the credit. Likewise, taxpayers claiming the credit on their 2009 returns, no matter when the house was purchased, must also use the new version of Form 5405. Taxpayers who claim the credit on their 2009 tax return will not be able to file electronically but instead will need to file a paper return.

A taxpayer who purchased a home on or before Nov. 6 and chooses to claim the credit on an original or amended 2008 return may continue to use the current version of Form 5405.

The new law raises the income limits for people who purchase homes after Nov. 6. The full credit will be available to taxpayers with modified adjusted gross incomes (MAGI) up to $125,000, or $225,000 for joint filers. Those with MAGI between $125,000 and $145,000, or $225,000 and $245,000 for joint filers, are eligible for a reduced credit. Those with higher incomes do not qualify.

For homes purchased prior to Nov. 7, 2009, existing MAGI limits remain in place. The full credit is available to taxpayers with MAGI up to $75,000, or $150,000 for joint filers. Those with MAGI between $75,000 and $95,000, or $150,000 and $170,000 for joint filers, are eligible for a reduced credit. Those with higher incomes do not qualify.New Requirements

Several new restrictions on purchases that occur after Nov. 6 go into effect with the new law:

Dependents are not eligible to claim the credit.

No credit is available ifthe purchase price of a home is more than $800,000.

A purchaser must be at least 18 years of age on the date of purchase.

Members of the Armed Forces and certain federal employees serving outside the U.S. have an extra year to buy a principal residence in the U.S. and still qualify for the credit. An eligible taxpayer must buy or enter into a binding contract to buy a home by April 30, 2011, and settle on the purchase by June 30, 2011.

For more details on the credit, visit the First-Time Homebuyer Credit page on IRS.gov.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

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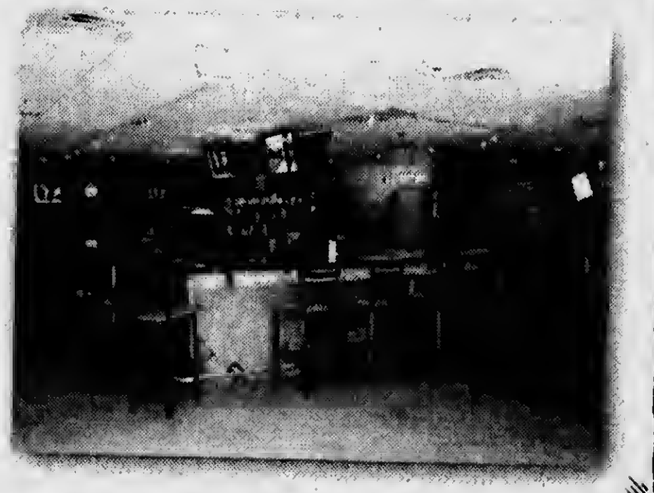

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Things to do in Evergreen Park

Thurs. Dec. 3rd - EP Youth Commission Open House for 4th & 5th Graders and their parents. 5-7pm at the Community Center Room 105 Come see what the youth commission is all about.

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Crisis Center needs your help

The Crisis Center for South Suburbia needs your help to give peace and joy during the holidays. Please consider purchasing items from their wish list and dropping them off at the Tinley Park Public Library collection site through Sunday, December 20, 2009.

The wish list is available on the line.
http://www.crisisctr.org/how_to_helpdonor_wish_list.asp
Contact Rita at 708-429-7255 ext.122 if you have any questions.

Support the Orland Township Food Pantry

The Orland Township Food Pantry needs your help! Each month the Food Pantry has been providing food for over 500 in our community. However, the donations are going down and we are reaching out to our fellow Chamber members to see if we can get your support during the holidays. There are three ways in which you and your staff or customers can assist in our efforts to provide food for the Holidays.

· Option 1 - partner with us to gather enough food to for a family of four. We will provide grocery bags with a contents needed 8 x 10 sticker on the front of the bag. We would also like to add your name or logo to the bag. This will be a means to show the recipient family of your support.

· Option 2 - The cost of the non-perishable foods on the list is approximately $25.00 or $35.00 with a gift card for a turkey or ham. If you would prefer to collect money and sponsor a family or more, please feel free to take advantage of this option.

· Option 3 - Participate in this program and the Gifts Adopt-A-Family program where families sign up at the Township office and provide a list of items they would wish for during the Holidays.

Please feel free to contact Joe McNicholas at 708-403-4222 x233. All donation items are tax deductible and the Food Pantry can provide receipts upon request.

Chicago Southland Chamber annual holiday luncheon

The Chicago Southland Chamber's Annual Holiday Sports Luncheon & Auction sponsored by Bimba Manufacturing Company will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2009, at The Odyssey Country Club, 19110 S. Ridgeland Ave. in Tinley Park, Illinois from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. 10:30 a.m. Registration, Networking & Silent Auction opens for bidding. 12:00 noon guests will be seated for a formal plated luncheon. At 12:30 p.m. guest speaker, David Kaplan, host of WGN Radio-Sports Central, host of Comcast Sports Net-Chicago Tribune Live and Play-by-Play Commentator for college football and basketball on ESPN will give a 30 minute presentation followed by audience Q & A. Four cash raffle prizes ($500 - $300 - $150 - $50) will be awarded at the luncheon. Raffle books are on sale at the Chamber for $20 each.Treat yourself, employees, and/or clients this holiday season to a festive luncheon. Admission is $40 per person or $390 per table of 10 or Co-Host the luncheon for only $500 for a table of 10 and receive company name listed in event program booklet, company table signage with preferred seating, 10 beverage tickets, 10 raffle tickets, your company promotional item at each place setting & group photo with David Kaplan! A cash bar will be available at the luncheon. Advanced reservations are recommended to guarantee a seat. Call the Chamber at 708-957-6950 or visit www.chicagosouthland.com Reservations must be canceled 48 hours before the event to receive refund.

Free Health Seminar

How to Stay Young for the First 100 Years" will be held at Brannigan Chiropractic Center on Thursday, December 3rd from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at 64 Orland Square Drive, Suite 116. Free snacks and music provided. Be one of the first 30 people to RSVP and you'll receive a free gift. Call 708-599-9727 for more information or to RSVP.

Drop off center at Neptune Society in Orland Park

Neptune Society is a drop off location for Toys For Tots! If you would like to donate a new, unwrapped, unused toy you may do so Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30am and 5pm.

We will be taking donations now through December 9th, 2010. Neptune Society is located at 15111 S. LaGrange Road, Orland Park. Call 708.226.6928 for information.

Support your local food pantry, they need your help!

A Smokey Mountain Christmas

"The Homecoming"

A musical play presented by the
Bridgeview Church of God
Santuary Choir
7801 W. 71st St. • Bridgeview, IL

Sunday Morning, December 13 at 10:45 a.m.
and Sunday Evening, December 20 at 6:00 p.m.
for further information please call: 708-448-7426

Come hear these delightful songs from the heart, and a Christmas message of love through music.

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church will present a free
Live Outdoor Nativity Scene
Friday & Saturday, December 11 & 12
6:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
on the lawn at Mt. Zion, 104th & Kostner, Oak Lawn

A chance to hear the story of the Birth of the Savior in the midst of a 'Winter Holiday' world.

Kids can pet the animals from The Farm, singing carols & warm up with hot chocolate & cookies!

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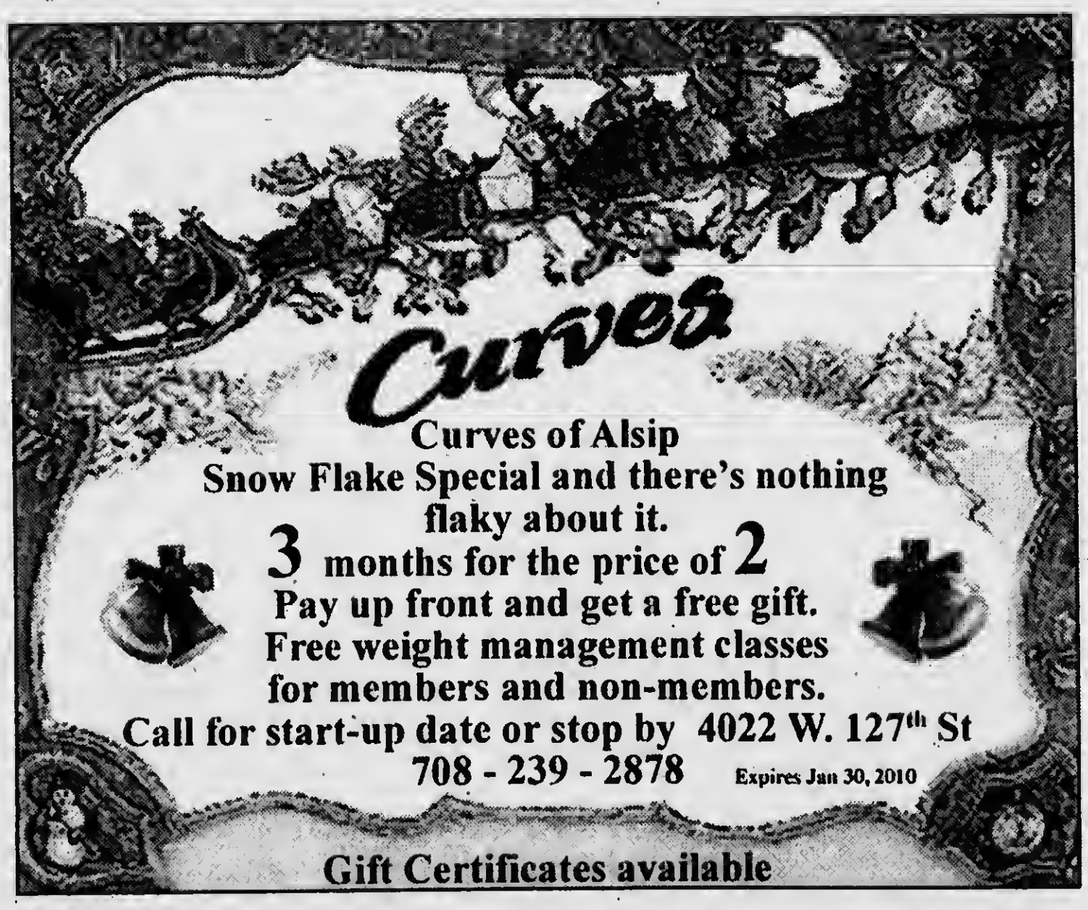

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Need Help Paying for your Winter HEATING BILL?

Cook County Commissioner Joan Patricia Murphy is Hosting an Energy Assistance Fair Saturday, December 4th. Apply now, for Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) as well as Nicor Sharing and ComEd assistance programs. The Energy Assistance Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 4th at the Crestwood Bingo Hall. Located in the Playfield Shopping Plaza at 5441 W. 127th Street in Crestwood.

When applying for assistance, please bring the following items with you. Proof of gross income for the last 30 days. Original Social Security Cards for all household members. A copy of your current Nicor and ComEd bills. If you rent and utilities are included, bring proof of rental agreement stating your monthly rent amount and landlord information.

Don't miss Commissioner Murphy's Energy Assistance Fair and representatives from CEDA, Nicor Gas and ComEd. Find out if you qualify for LIHEAP and receive a payment directly to your heating bill. For more information and income guidelines call Ceda at: (708) 339-3610 or (708) 371-1522.

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Sunday December 13, 2009 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Tours begin at 2 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.

Entrance Exam
Saturday January 9, 2010 at 8 a.m.
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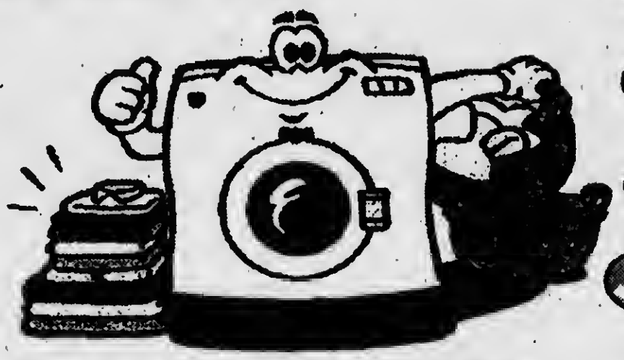

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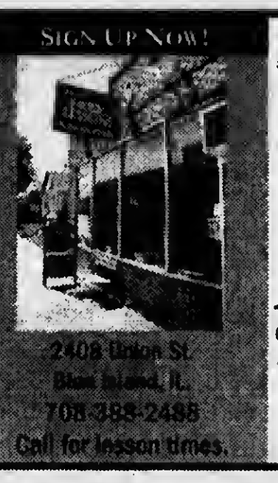

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Christmas in Midlothian

Once again the Midlothian Park District, the Midlothian Chamber of Commerce, and the Village of Midlothian are hosting their annual "Christmas in Midlothian" celebration on Saturday, December 5, 2009, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m, at the Don Preston Recreation Center, 14500 South Kostner. All food at the luncheon is being donated by Bartolini's Restaurant. After the luncheon, join the Midlothian community when we watch the Christmas Parade. The parade starts at Corsi's Plaza and moves down 147th Street to the Village Greens. At the end of the parade, you can stay at the Village Greens for the Tree Lighting Ceremony. This is an event that the whole community can enjoy. For more information, please call the Midlothian Park district at (708) 371-6191, the Midlothian Chamber of Commerce at (708) 389-0020, or the Village Hall at (708) 389-0200.

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VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 23

December 1, 2009

Orland Park budget cuts may leave some residents at the curb

By Matt Mayer

The village board at the Nov. 2 Orland Park Board of Trustees meeting approved the publication of the 2010 budget for public consumption. A public hearing was held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday Nov. 30 at the village hall. The final budget will be adopted in December. The original budget deficit was $2.5 million. Four special budget meetings have taken place over the past two months. The village took difficult steps to reduce the defieit to $1.3million. One of the proposed cuts is the Dial-A-Ride program. In an effort to help bridge the gap in its operating budget, officials plan to cut the program at the end of the year resulting in a $430,000 savings.

Several residents pleaded with the board not to cut the program. One resident who is blind said it's very difficult to get around. He said if you take this away from us it's like throwing us into the garbage can. This service is desperately needed, he said. Another resident said his wife is wheel chair bound and needs the Dial-A-Ride program to get to doctor appointments. He pleaded with the board not to discontinue the service. Residents needing the service pleaded with the board to find another way.

Officials said that the projected subsidy for the 2010 fiscal year was $350,000. Officials also eliminated three full-time drivers and approved early retirement for the superintendent of vehicles - there is an additional savings of $29,000 for gas and maintance costs, officials said.

Along with the layoff of three full time bus drivers, the village also laid off a police officer, an administration assistant in finance and a technical support assistant in developments services. The bus drivers and police officer were union employees, officials said.

Emerald ash borer discovered in Oak Forest

The Illinois Department of Agriculture has notified the City of Oak Forest that the emerald ash borer, an exotic species of beetle that destroys ash trees, has been identified in a tree on Terrace Drive .

"We've been monitoring our ash trees closely ever since the beetle emerged in Illinois ," said Public Works Director Troy Ishler. "We also have done our homework and will weigh our options on how to deal with this situation carefully."

According to the Illinois Department of Agriculture, the bright, metallic green beetle attacks only ash trees. The adult beetles, which are metallic green and about ½ inch long, nibble on ash foliage but cause little damage. The larvae feed on the inner bark of ash trees – disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. In the spring, the adults emerge from the tree – leaving a D-shaped exit hole in the bark (see photo below, right).

The beetle was unknown in North America until June 2002 when it was discovered as the cause for the decline of many ash trees in southeast Michigan . It has been since found in Indiana , Ohio , Maryland , and Illinois . The beetle likely arrived in the United States on solid wood packing material carried in cargo ships or airplanes originating in its native Asia .

Orland Park to collect warm cloths for the poor

The Village of Orland Park is hoping to warm some hearts this winter, along with some heads, hands and more. Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin and Village Clerk Dave Maher have teamed up to lead Orland Park's "Warm a Heart Winter Drive." Orland Park is collecting the items beginning October 1 through the winter months. Collected items will then be delivered to Orland Township for distribution through its assistance program. Contributions may be delivered to the Frederick T. Owens Village Hall at 14700 South Ravinia Avenue or the village's Sportsplex, 11351 West 159th Street. Further information is available by calling the Office of Special Services at 708/403-6188.

"Adopt A Family" for Christmas!

Bring a light to someone in need of hope this holiday season. The Village of Orland Park, The Orland Park Chamber of Commerce and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Reber Tesmond Post #2604 are partnering for the holidays to help those families in Orland Park that are struggling financially. Help us make the season brighter for these families by adopting one of them for the Christmas season. Families can be "adopted" by your company or individually. Please call the Chamber Office at 708-349-2972 for more information or to choose a family to adopt. Wrapped gifts must be dropped off at the Chamber office by Tuesday, December 15th. Let's remember the meaning of this holiday season.

Acorn Public Library announces holiday programing

The Acorn Public Library District will host events throughout the month of December in order to celebrate the holiday season. These events include:

Saturday December 5 at 2 PM – The Legend of St. Nicholas. Dressed as the English interpretation of St. Nicholas (Father Christmas), an actor will tell the festive tales and explain the influence this 4th century Bishop has had on the many traditions of the holiday season throughout the world, both religious and secular.

Thursday December 10 at 7 PM - Christmas Cookies Made Easy! Come learn a few tricks and tips from Susan Powell of InFocus Design as she presents a program on how to make quick, easy homemade cookies using just three ingredients! Plenty of samples will be handed out! Attendance is strictly limited to 30 patrons and this is for adults only.

Saturday December 12 – Holiday Open House. Stop by for refreshments on both levels, music and good cheer at our annual open house. Santa will be visiting the library at 10:30, and everyone who visits with him will receive a small gift. Musician and vocalist Stephen Zahradnik will put on a performance at 2 PM, and Ringers Rock and The Glory Ringers from Lutheran Church of the Resurrection will be roving the library from 3:30 until closing.

Friday December 18 at 2 PM – Ragtime Christmas Hour. Join pianist Sue Keller for some wonderful holiday music!

Acorn Public Library is located at 15624 S. Central Avenue in Oak Forest. For more information, please call 708-687-3700. These events are free and open to the public.

Orland Township announces holiday program

Orland Township Holiday 2009 Program is designed to provide food, new toys and new clothes to families in need in Orland Township. Here is how you can help make a difference. Donations of non-perishable food (please check expiration dates on all food items donated), food certificates, gift certificates and new toys are needed. Monetary donations are always welcome, too. Volunteers are always needed to help sort and pack food donations and toys. Stop in at the Orland Township Office or call 708/403-4222 when you decide how you would like to participate.

Donations for the Holiday 2009 Program will be accepted at: Orland Township Office located at 15100 South 94th Avenue during regular Office Hours, Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m./Tuesday to 6:00 p.m.

Special Holiday Hours:
Wednesday, December 2nd from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, December 9th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 10th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

All food donated, includeing holiday food baskets, must be non-perishable. Examples of such items are: canned sweet potatoes, canned cranberries, canned vegetables, potatoes / dehydrated, dry stuffing mix, canned olives / pickles, jello / pudding cake / frosting mix, pie filling / crust mix, food certificates for meat, poultry & perishables, canned stew / chili / dinners, spaghetti sauces pasta / noodles / rice, boxed pasta noodle dinners, dry / hot cereals, powdered milk, juice drink peanut butter / jelly, tuna, macaroni & cheese, or baby food.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 23 December 1, 2009

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas presents an award of excellence in her downtown Chicago office to the founders of the Midnight Circus, Jeff Jenkins and Julie Greenberg, and their son Max, for their ongoing commitment to training new circus artists and for continually entertaining the Chicagoland community.

Worth Public Library to host "A Christmas Canvas"

On Saturday, Dec. 5th, the Worth Public Library District, 6917 W. 111th Street, will host a slide lecture program titled "A Christmas Canvas: Paintings of the Nativity Story" at 10:00 AM in the Library Meeting Room.

Christian imagery that deals with the Nativity and related events surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ will be shown, discussed and compared with one another to reveal the multiple layers of meanings that can be conveyed even within the same subject matter. Various artists from different cultures and time periods will be included to provide a relatively comprehensive look at such an important tradition in Art History.

Please register at Worth Public Library or by phone at 448-2855.

Worth Park District announces upcoming activites

The Worth Park District will host a youth basketball league. This basketball league is a co-op between the Worth Park District, Palos Park Recreation Department and the Palos Heights Recreation Department. The league will have boy and girl divisions and will emphasize play while developing skills. Each child will have one practice per week and play in at least half a game each week while learning the value of teamwork. The fee per player $ 120.00 resident and $ 140.00 non-resident . The fee includes patched officials, outside facility rentals, a team shirt, participant award, photo package and an end of the season party for the players. Team practices are held once a week Tuesday-Friday. There will be a $ 20.00 charge for participants that drop or register for this program once the draft has taken place.

Santa Claus will be placing a mail box at the Terrace Centre the holiday season. All children who write a letter to Santa will receive a letter directly from the North Pole. Drop off your letter in the Santa mailbox located at the Terrace Centre or mail your letter to: Santa Claus c/o Worth Park District, 11500 S. Beloit Ave, Worth, IL 60482. Letters will be accepted December 1 - 14. We must give Santa enough time to respond. Please be sure to print your name and address clearly on your letter, so Santa can return a letter to you without delay.

Join us for our annual Christmas Tree Lighting event on Sunday, December 6 from 6:00 – 7:00 PM at the Private Bank (6825 West 111th Street). Bring the kids to visit with Santa.

Bring your favorite cup and saucer and enjoy a cup of Christmas tea and cookies as published writer and story teller, Alice Collins, delights us with her Christmas stories on Wednesday, December 9 at 7:00 PM. Enjoy Christmas Carols and simple crafts for your Christmas tree. This program is free for children. Children under 12 are required to attend with an adult.

Santa and Mrs. Claus could arrive at your door for a visit on Saturday, December 12 between 3:00 – 8:00 PM and have a holiday treat for your child. Please leave a small gift outside your door for Santa to bring to your child. Please have your child's name clearly labeled on the gift. Santa will spend approximately 15 minutes visiting. Have your camera ready! This is only available for Worth Residents. Please Note: Please print your child's name and age at time of registration for Santa. The cost of this visit will be $ 20.00 per household up to 4 children and $ 5.00 for each additional child.

It is rumored that Santa will leave candy canes around the Terrace Centre's Indoor Playground and outdoor playground. Join us on Saturday, December 19 as we search for the hidden candy canes. After the search we will enjoy a Christmas themed craft. Please dress for the weather since the search will take place outdoors. This event will be from 10:00 – 11:00 am. The deadline to register will be December 12. The cost for this hunt and craft will be $ 6.00 resident and $ 9.00 non-resident. You may bring cameras for pictures with Santa.

Want a ride to get all your Christmas shopping done? Join the Worth Park District on a trip to the Woodfield Mall. Shop at the finest collection of department stores and specialty shops in the Great Lakes region. Surround yourself with fashion, food and fun at Illinois #1 tourist attraction. This trip will be on Saturday, December 12 from 9:00 am – 6:00 PM for kids in grades 5th – 12th. The Worth Park District will take care of the light breakfast and the transportation. All you have to do is find all your gifts. The cost is $ 22.00 per person and the registration deadline is December 7.

For more information and an explanation of fees please call the park district at (708) 448-7080. Worth Park District is at 11500 S. Beloit (3 Blocks west of Harlem on 115th Street).

Chicago Ridge considers home-based business ordinance

By Matt Mayer

Officials at the Nov. 17 Chicago Ridge Board of Trustees meeting considered an ordinance for home based businesses. If the ordinance were approved any resident living in a single family home would be able to apply for a business license. The board approved an ordinance establishing license fees for home based businesses - any home based business would require a $75.00 license fee and a catering/ food business would require an initial inspection fee of $40.00 and a re-inspection fee of $25.00 was approved.

The PZC (Planning and Zoning Commission) must first review the ordinance and the PZC will also hold a public hearing. Upon the results of the procedure, the PZC will conclude whether or not to recommend the ordinance to the village board. The following caveats apply to the ordinance. Home occupations in all residential districts shall be considered a revocable use when such home occupation impinges upon the rights and privileges of other residential districts. A home occupation is any business or occupation carried on by a member of the immediate family residing within the dwelling unit. A home occupation shall be incidental and secondary to the use of the dwelling unit for dwelling proposes.

No signs, advertising, or display that will indicate from the exterior there that the building is beings used, in part, for any purpose other than that of a dwelling. No commodities are allowed to be sold on the premises except preordered merchandise. Such merchandise shall be limited to specialty goods and services only and not include general merchandise. There shall be no commodity sold or services rendered that require receipt or delivery of merchandise goods or equipment other than a passenger motor vehicle, three quarter ton step van. All activities, including storage, shall be conducted completely within the dwelling unit or accessory structure and in no case will there be visible outside storage of goods, supplies or equipment. No perceptible noise, odor, smoke, electrical interference or vibration emanating from the structure in which the home occupation functions.

No mechanical or electrical equipment shall be used except such as is permissible for purely domestic or household purposes; small business office equipment is permissible. No more than one three quarter ton truck will be allowed on the premises and must be parked behind the building line. No appointments or other traffic is permitted which would create parking problems for neighbors. Catering and food manufacturing services are permitted only upon compliance with the initial and subsequent periodic building department and health department inspections and approvals from such departments: Trustee Brad Grove said that some examples of acceptable home business are printing, contractors without a warehouse, and hair cutting. The village will issue a sales tax number and the village will receive a percentage of the sales tax revenues.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

B-MAC EDITION

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 23

December 1, 2009

Alsip approves Freedom of Information Act

By Matt Mayer

Officials at the Nov 16 Alsip Board of Trustees meeting approved an ordinance to include a new section pertaining to payments for village transactions, a chapter regarding administration and an article "in general" of the municipal code. An ordinance amending special uses in the I-1 Industrial Medium District to add permitted uses in the B-2 zoned business district as special uses as well as. an ordinance granting a special use permit for the property at 5420 W. 122nd Street was also approved

Other highlights: Officials approved an ordinance regarding the Freedom of Information Act. and a chapter pertaining to administration. This ordinance pertains to the release of public records and was approved to comply with the new laws regarding the "Freedom of Information Act". The IDOT Motor Fuel Tax allotment for $33,233.79 was approved as well as a fire department request for holiday pay of $36,110.32 for fiscal year 2009-2010.

A request for the fire and police department to begin the testing process for the position of firefighter/paramedic was also approved.

The village hall will be closed on Saturday Dec. 26 and Sat Jan. 2 in observance of the Christmas and New Year weekend

Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library hosts food and toy drive

The library is proud to sponsor our Eight Annual Food and Toy Drive, till December 23, 2009. We will be collecting non-perishable food items, new unwrapped toys, and monetary donations. Worth Township will distribute these items to area families who are in need. For additional information, please contact the Adult Services Department at 708/371-5666 ext 108 or 109.

"Angels In Our Life" Thursday, December 3, at 7:00 PM. Angel Therapy Practitioner Denise Sutherland, will also instruct each person on how to connect with your angels to improve all aspects of your life. She is certified by Dr. Doreen Virtue and also in Past- Life Regression Therapy by Dr. Brian Weiss. Each participant will be able to ask her one question. Registration required, call 708/371-5666 ext 108 or 109.

Help SWSRA feed the hungry

Help South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA) feed local families in need on Friday, December 4th. SWSRA will be hosting the Feed the Hungry Dance while collecting non-perishable food items from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM at the Midlothian Park District located at 14500 S. Kostner Avenue. Non-perishable foods may also be dropped off in a box at the Apollo Recreation Center , 12521 S. Kostner in Alsip , now through December 4th.

SWSRA is a non-profit organization that provides recreation services for individuals with special needs. The Feed the Hungry Dance registration deadline is November 23rd. The fee for residents is $5 and the fee for non-residents is $10. If you are interested in registering for the dance, please contact the SWSRA office at (708) 389-9423. A reminder for those who have already registered for the dance, do not forget to bring your dancing shoes along with a non-perishable food item!

For more information, please contact the SWSRA office at (708) 389-9342.

Home ownership under attack

The threshold requirement to enter the middle-class is home ownership. And, home ownership is under attack. Not by some foreign agency or power, but by persons in whom we have placed our trust. The largest asset in middle-class America's financial portfolio is their homes. Their homes increase in value over time and serve as a financial resource to fund our children's college education and their retirement. How is it under attack?

Unscrupulous mortgage brokers, their colleagues and financially depressed home owners. The aforementioned group is a toxic mix for neighborhood and community destruction. Mortgage fraud, by this group, is the primary reason communities across the country are experiencing rising foreclosures and declining property values. Mortgage fraud occurs frequently and in the past, we have all turned a blind eye to it. A little white lie here, a little puffing there and soon we have fabricated a foundation upon which the mortgage cannot be supported. Ultimately we end up with a boarded up home that serves as a haven for crime and drugs.

What is Mortgage Fraud? Mortgage fraud is the fastest growing white-collar crime in this country. Even street criminals and drug dealers have found it an attractive way to launder their money. Mortgage fraud occurs when you use someone else's identification; inflate your income to secure a mortgage; claim the property will be owner occupied; inflate the purchase price, or falsify employment records and deposits. There are other instances of mortgage fraud but the aforementioned are the most frequently used. Mortgage fraud is so pervasive that President Obama has authorized an additional 50 million dollars to the FBI budget to combat this growing crime. We at the Cook County Recorder of Deeds are also combating mortgage fraud.

We have established a Mortgage Fraud Task Force within our office to examine real estate transactions that have the character traits that imply that the transaction could be fraudulent. Yes, we are looking behind the transaction to save Cook County communities. Some will say that it's not our responsibility to scrutinize documents and transactions to this extent. I say to them, if you are standing curbside and witness a child, a blind person or some other incapacitated person about to enter into oncoming traffic, do you stand there and let the event take place or do you prevent what will certainly be a tragic event? I would prevent the tragedy even though I have no real responsibility and that is what we are doing under my administration in the Cook County Recorder of Deeds office.

Blue Island lights up the holidays

The City of Blue Island will host a Christmas Light Parade Saturday, December 5th, 2009. The event will take place on Western Avenue, between Prairie & Grove, in Blue Island. The event starts at 5:30 pm and the glow is sure to be seen for miles.

The event will feature fun for the whole family. Carriage rides will be available, as well as hot cocoa, cookies and more at the park on Western and York St.

Before the Christmas Light Parade come to the Memorial Park Field house for lunch with Santa! Take pictures, eat lunch and don't forget your Christmas list! Santa will be checking it twice. And don't forget to join us aftward in the evening too for the downtown Light Parade. Santa will arrive at the park at 11am and leave to go back to the North Pole at 2pm. This Saturday, December 5th event is $5 per person.

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas presents an award of excellence in her downtown Chicago office to Kevin Rutter, Illinois Teacher of the Year, for his outstanding work with students at Chicago's Carl Schurz High School, where he has been a teacher since 2000. Rutter was named the Illinois Teacher of the Year at a banquet in Peoria, where he beat out 150 other candidates statewide for the teaching honor.

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VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Lawn / Burbank / Hickory Hills / Evergreen Park

Volume 36 Number 12

December 15, 2009

The St. Patricia 5th graders visited the St. Patricia Hickory Hills Seniors at the Community Center on December 2. Father Marc Pasciak, pastor, created the Partners in Prayer Program which pairs up students and seniors of the parish. Students performed a Christmas show and shared cards and letters with their senior. The students will return during Lent to meet with them again. Shown above are DJ Glogowski and a Hickory Hills senior.

Evergreen Park approves marijuana ordinance

By Matt Mayer

Officials at the Dec 7 Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting approved an ordinance amending a section and a chapter of the municipal code pertaining to the possession of cannabis. Under the new provisions of the ordinance, anyone arrested with 2.5 grams or less will receive a $200 fine for the first offense and a $500 fine for the second offense.

Anyone charged with the first two offenses will appear in the village courtroom and the village will receive the monies collected for the fines. Anyone who has committed two or more prior offenses under this section is prohibited from proceeding civilly under this section, and shall be charged and processed through the criminal court system.

Other highlights: the village board approved an ordinance amending an article pertaining to the seizure and impoundment of motor vehicles as well as a chapter pertaining to motor vehicles and traffic. The ordinance changes the bond and penalty amounts; under the new ordinance the owner of the motor vehicle, which is seized or impounded, will be fined $600 in addition to any fees for towing or storage and the penalty will be paid to the village. A vehicle will only be seized if a police officer feels there is probable cause. An ordinance amending a section and a chapter of the municipal code regarding the increase of fines and penalties was also approved. These ordinances are effective Jan. 1, 2010.

Oak Lawn Children's Museum educates with fun

The Children's Museum in Oak Lawn has fun events for the entire family! Smart Art, Story time and the Gingerbread House Program are ongoing everyday until 12/23.

Our annual, very popular traditional Gingerbread House project encourages a please touch philosophy! For an additional $4.00 you can create your very own Gingerbread House! Yummy, graham crackers, holiday candies are used for decorations. The museum will provide the supplies and you create the memories. Visit us a www.cmoaklawn.org for all program updates and hours.

Burbank Presbyterian Church to hold special Christmas services

Burbank Manor Presbyterian Church will host two special services on Christmas Eve. At 7:30 p.m. the Chancel Choir will present the Christmas musical "One Night in Bethlehem" by John Innes. The service will conclude with the lighting of candles and singing of "Silent Night, Holy Night." A service of Holy Communion will be offered at 11:00 p.m. Dr. David Neff, pastor, will preach on the theme "Night of Miracles". Special music will be provided by the Chancel Choir. The service will also conclude with the lighting of candles.

All are welcome to these special services of worship. For more information, please contact the church website at www.bmpcusa.com.

Moraine Valley offers continued education classes, arts, writing and more

Moraine Valley Community College is offering courses this spring to help you grow everything from house plants to a healthy lawn.

Register now for Botany and "Horticulture Science: You Can Grow Anything" and learn how to plant and care for all house pants, annuals, and perennial. You also can sign up for "Vegetable Gardening in Raised Beds and Containers," which focuses on the preparation, plant selection and maintenance of vegetables and herbs. Need some help with your lawn? "Building a Better Lawn" will give you the step-by-step instructions on how to grow a lush lawn.

Spur some creativity this spring by taking one of Moraine Valley Community College's new art or writing classes.

Have fun with Caricature Drawing and capture a person's likeness while using the effects of exaggeration. Gain experience with a wide variety of paints and painting mediums by taking Materials and Techniques of Painting.

Know how to knit or crochet and want to learn more patterns? Then sign up for Advanced Crocheting or Advanced Knitting.

For the writing enthusiast, Get Your Creative Works Published is the class to take. Find out how to get your written work out to a wider audience. Or begin to trace your family tree and unearth your deep roots in Moraine Valley's new Genealogy course. A self-help class also is available this spring, Manifest Your Destiny based on Dr. Wayne Dyer's book.

Certified public accountants may now take continuing professional education (CPE) courses, both online and in-class, at Moraine Valley Community College, 9000 online courses through Moraine Valley Community College.

Moraine Valley Community College will continue offering a variety of cooking classes for the spring 2010 semester. All classes take place at Cooper's Hawk Winery and Restaurant, 15690 S. Harlem Ave., Orland Park.

Cooking with Wine, Mediterranean Night is a demonstration of how to cook with wine and prepare dishes with a Mediterranean flair. Follow up with a similar class, Cooking with Wine, Italian Night Club, where participants can pair favorite Italian dishes with wine.Cooking with Wine, Study of Reds presents cooking with red wine and pairing it with meals.

For a complete listing of courses available, visit www.ed2go.com/morainevalley. For information about how to earn CPEs, contact Workforce Development and Community Services at (708) 974-5735.

Cook County Board President, Todd Stroger threw the switch lighting up the County Building Christmas tree recently at the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Stroger wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. An overflowing crowd was on hand.

CPS executive graduates from elite academy

A Chicago Public Schools executive is among nine education, business and military leaders who have graduated from the 2009 Broad Superintendents Academy, The Broad Center for the Management of School Systems announced today.

Robert Runcie, chief administrative officer for Chicago Public Schools and a resident of South Shore, Ill. has graduated from The Broad (rhymes with "road") Superintendents Academy, a 10-month executive management training program run by The Broad Center to prepare working CEOs and other top executives from education, military, business, nonprofit and government sectors to lead urban public school systems.

Graduates of The Broad Superintendents Academy currently work as superintendents in 38 cities in 24 states. For a list of cities, please visit http://www.broadacademy.org/fellows/map.html. In the last year, nearly half of all new superintendent positions in large urban districts were filled with graduates of the academy. Based on analysis of publicly available student achievement data for Broad Superintendents Academy graduates who have served as superintendents for three or more years, nearly three-fourths are improving student achievement faster than the state and faster than demographically similar districts.

"These graduates join a growing trend of talented American leaders coming forward from diverse sectors to dedicate their skills and experience to the most important civil rights cause of our time: dramatically improving public education for inner city students," said Eli Broad, philanthropist and founder of The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, which funds The Broad Center.

A complete list of this year's class follows, and full biographies can be found at http://broadacademy.org.

Runcie's class marks the eighth class to graduate since The Broad Superintendents Academy was founded in 2002. The academy is the only program in the country that recruits and trains non-traditional superintendent candidates as well as stand-out career educators. To date, graduates of the program have filled 67 superintendent positions and 88 senior school district executive positions.

Broad Superintendents Academy participants keep their current jobs and attend seven extended-weekend training sessions covering CEO-level skills in education, finance, management, operations and organizational systems. They study best practices and lessons learned from current and historical reform efforts in large urban American school districts, particularly those that are the most effective at improving student achievement and closing achievement gaps.

Only 2 percent of applicants were accepted into this year's program, making it the most selective of its kind in the country. The 2010 class will be announced in January. For more information, or to apply for the 2011 class, please visit www.broadacademy.org.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

St. Laurence Honors State Scholars

Principal James Muting is pleased to announce that eighteen students of St. Laurence High School, the place "Where Leadership Begins," have been recognized as "2010 Illinois State Scholars." This prestigious award is given each year by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), which is recognizing high school students from across the state as this year's State Scholars.

"I am very proud of each of these young men," said Principal Muting. "They have worked extremely hard to achieve their goals, and I congratulate them on being named Illinois State Scholars."

The following STL students were named Illinois State Scholars: Lubomir Durisin, Jr. (Bridgeview), Scott Foulk (Chicago, Clearing), Daniel Freund (Burbank), Gabriel Gal (Chicago, Archer Heights), Nicholas Gawel (Central Stickney), Nicholas Jawor (Stickney), Sean Kennedy (Justice), Michael Lazarczyk (Palos Hills), Michael Madera (Chicago, Garfield Ridge), Joseph Marusarz (Lemont), Sean Milligan (Homer Glen), Matthew Racine (Crestwood), Christopher Remijas (Burbank), Patrick Ruff (Hometown), Michael Sefcik (Chicago, West Lawn), Brandon Sheeran (Chicago, Clearing), Michael Touhy (Palos Heights), and Matthew Vari (Chicago, Garfield Ridge).

2010 Secretary of Defense award nomination season reaches halfway mark

Five weeks remaining for Illinois National Guard and Reserve members and families to nominate supportive employers

Illinois National Guard and Reserve members and their families have five weeks left to nominate their supportive employers for the 2010 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, the U.S. Government's highest honor given to employers for their outstanding support of employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve. The nomination season closes on January 18, 2010. As the nomination period reaches its halfway mark, 38 nominations have been received from National Guard and Reserve members from Illinois. The state is one of the top 10 states to submit nominations for the award, indicating strong support by the state's employers for its citizen soldiers. With almost one-half of the U.S. military comprised of the National Guard and Reserve and the ongoing global operations, U.S. employers play an increasingly important role in their support for employees who serve in the military.

Nominations will continue to be accepted at www.FreedomAward.mil through January 18, 2010. National Guard and Reserve members and their families are eligible and encouraged to nominate employers that have provided exceptional support to military employees beyond the federal law requirements. All award nominees will be announced in mid winter 2010 and the 15 recipients will be announced in early summer.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense Agency, to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. In the past 14 years, 130 organizations from across the nation have received this prestigious award. Established in 1972, ESGR's mission is to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law and resolving conflict through mediation.

For questions regarding the Freedo Award, please visit www.FreedomAward.mil or contact Maj. Melissa Phillips, ESGR Public Affairs, at 703-380-9262.

Evergreen Park High School Announces State Scholars

Mr. William J. Sanderson, principal, is extremely proud to announce that 23 Evergreen Park Community High School seniors have been named Illinois State Scholars by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC). The following students received this award: Michelle Augustinas, Sara Augustinas, Frank Boyle, Ashley Butler, Sarah Christensen, Leslie Christopher, Suzanne Dahlke, Kelsey Dineen, Aaron Ditter, Kathleen Dwyer, Ashley Grabowski, Olivia Handler, Amber Hart, Julia Luchtenburg, Nicholas Lurquin, Oliver Murphy, Jillian Pastick, Michael Pfister, Maryl Pinotti, Fiona Potempa, Sarah Ryan, Margrette Suchoski, and Brooke Telander. Selection is based on ACT test score results and the student's class rank at the end of their junior year of high school.

Oak Forest re-establishes Emergency Management Agency

On December 8, the Oak Forest City Council approved an ordinance to reestablish the city's Emergency Management Agency (EMA) as a stand-alone department, which will report directly to the mayor. In 2006, the agency was incorporated as part of the Oak Forest Fire Department under the supervision of the fire chief.

"The goals of fire protection personnel and emergency management personnel are similar but different in scope," said Mayor Hank Kuspa. "I believe the best way to protect the health and safety of our residents is for EMA to be its own department."

According to the Cook County Emergency Management Agency, 40 of the county's 128 suburbs have an EMA created by ordinance. Of those who do not, many are in the process of creating separate agencies in order to look at the broader implications of emergency management as compared to fire and police management. In Oak Forest, EMA, as a department, will be responsible for helping the city get throughthe first 72 hours – often considered the most critical hours – of an emergency situation. The department will address issues such as mass casualties, shelter and mutual aid. In addition,the department will educate the public on how to prepare for emergency situations. It also will continue to play an integral role in regional mutual aid organizations, including the Suburban Mutual Assistance Response Team – an effort the city helped to create in 1982 – and the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Division 24.

"EMA will focus on emergencies that impact the community in a larger context, which ismuch different than responding to a fire, shooting or code enforcement issue," Kuspa added."As the chief elected official who is responsible for declaring an emergency situation in this jurisdiction, I want advice from someone familiar with emergency management and all of its potential ramifications." EMA Coordinator Bob Small will continue to manage the agency, which ineludes 18 volunteers.

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Oak Lawn announces important events

Library Exhibits Local Artists

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will exhibit dozens of original works by two local artists in their Public Art Gallery during December 2009.

Members of the community may stop by to view marker and oil pastel drawings by David Barista and oil paintings by Alexander James Payanoff. The public art gallery is located on the second floor, near the Computer Center.

Artists interested in participating in future exhibitions can pick up an application at the library's Reception Booth. For more information, contact Linda Atkins, public relations officer, 708-422-4990.

To view images of works by Alexander James Payanoff visit — http://alexanderjpayanoff.com/home.html. Works on exhibit include: The Mysterious Matador, Head Creeps, Lost in The Dark(The Cut) (self Portrait), Lost in The Dark(The Maiden), God Head, and Staged.

Friends of the Oak Lawn Library Trip: Those Fabulous 50s & 60s

Registration is still underway for a Friends of the Oak Lawn Library bus trip to see a matinee performance of "Those Fabulous 50s & 60s" at The Fireside Theatre in Fort Atkinson, WI on Saturday, January 16.

Participants will enjoy a delicious seven course meal and a live performance of this nostalgic musical extravaganza featuring music, dancing and humor. This show is jam-packed with the sounds of the 1950s and 1960s, including such greats as Elvis Presley, Bobby Darin, Rosemary Clooney, The Platters, Little Richard, The Beatles, The Beach Boys, Patsy Cline, Simon and Garfunkel, The Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan and many more. Afterwards, there will be time to visit the spectacular Fireside Gift Shoppes.

This trip will depart from the library at 8 a.m. and return at 6 p.m. The cost of the trip is $90 for Friends members and $95 for others. Members must present a current membership card or receipt to receive the $5 discount. Two ticket limit. Please be advised that this trip is not wheelchair accessible.

Call the library to find out how to purchase tickets, 708-422-4990.

Southwest Community Concert Band offers free concert

The Southwest Community Concert Band, directed by Ray Forlenza, presents "Home for Christmas" Concert and annual food drive. Please bring non-perishable food items for the Lemont food pantry to this free concert.

This year's guest artist will be the award-winning Midwest Crossroads Chorus of the Sweet Adelines. http://www.midwestcrossroad.com/ This vocal ensemble is the female version of the male barbershop quartet.

Band selections include: "Sleigh Ride", "Buglers Holiday" which features a trumpet trio, and "A Christmas Festival"all composed by Le Roy Anderson. You'll also hear "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year", The Toy Shop" with narration and a few other tunes. There will also be a Christmas sing-along to get you in a festive mood! Pre-concert festivities start at 5:30 with a brass ensemble. At intermission, the clarinet choir will perform in the lobby and there will be a carol sing-along in the church. There might even be an appearance by Santa Claus!

This free concert will be held Sunday December 20th at 6:00 p.m. The concert is at the First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 South Bell Road , Lemont , Illinois 60439 . During intermission, you can purchase beverages and snacks at the church's Clay Cup. Cookies and refreshments will be served after the concert.

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council. The Southwest Community Concert Band was established in 1981. Rehearsals are 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. on Tuesdays at the First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 South Bell Road , Lemont , IL 60439 . P.O Box 246 , Lemont Illinois 60439-0246 . Band voice mail (815) 773-4159. Website: www.swcommunityband.com info@swcommunityband.com

Democratic Candidates made headlines giving out change

Seven Democratic Cook County reform candidates have formed a joint 2010 campaign coalition "ChangeCookCounty.Com" to help advance an electoral victory for a "change agenda" in Cook County government.

Todd Connor (Metropolitan Water Reclamation District), Ray Figueroa (Cook County Assessor), Ade Onayemi (1st County Board District), Sheila Chalmers-Currin (5th County Board District), John Fairman (6th County Board District), Xavier Nogueras (8th County Board District) and Dr. Victor Forys (17th County Board District) formed the campaign coalition and hammered out a broad agenda of principles over the last several weeks.

Mr. Ed McElroy recently interviewed Commissioner Joseph Berrios of the Board of Tax Appeals and Congressman Daniel Lipinski. The show will air on Friday, December 18th at 5 p.m. and again on Sunday, December 20 at 12 noon on Comcast Channel 19.

Pictured from the left is Commissioner Joseph Berrios, Ed McElroy and Congressman Dan Lipinski.

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Thursday, December 24th
at 6:30 pm
Angel Choir (3-8 year olds),
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and more

For more information call 708-599-4025
Also, Carol Sing Service : Sun. Dec. 27th
(sing carols and enjoy cookies and hot chocolate)
and Agape Service: Sun. Jan. 3rd,
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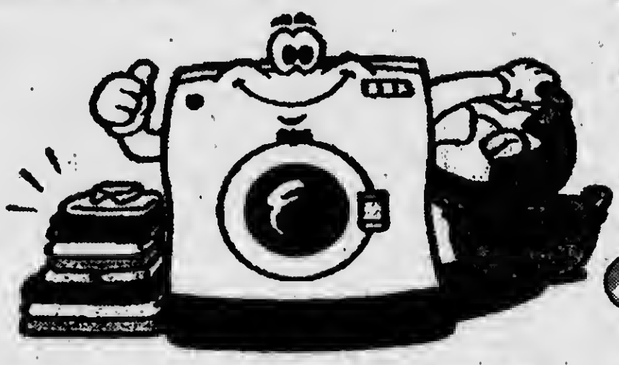

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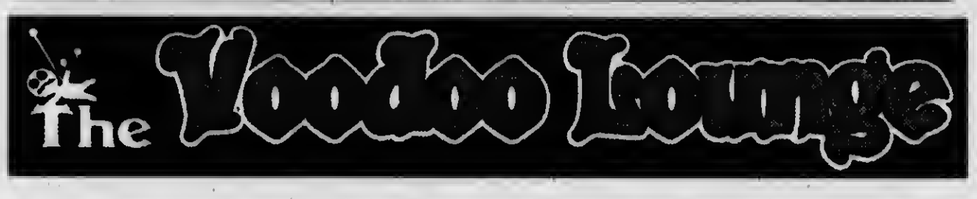
10 pm—1 am



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Moraine Valley seeks comment for its reaccreditation visit

Moraine Valley Community College, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills, seeks comments from the public about the institution for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. As part of its participation in the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP), the college will undergo an onsite Quality Checkup visit February 17-19, 2010, by a team representing The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Moraine Valley Community College has been accredited by the Commission since 1975. The team will review the college's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's criteria for accreditation. The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college to: Public Comment on Moraine Valley Community College The Higher Learning Commission 30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400 Chicago, IL 60602 The public also may submit comments on the Commission's Web site at www.ncahlc.org. Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Written, signed comments must be received by January 15, 2010. The Commission cannot guarantee that comments received after the due date will be considered. Comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person providing the comments. Comments will not be treated as confidential. Note: Individuals with a specific dispute or grievance with an institution should request the separate Policy on Complaints document from the Commission office. The Higher Learning Com-mission cannot settle disputes between insti-tutions and individuals. Complaints will not be considered third-party comment.

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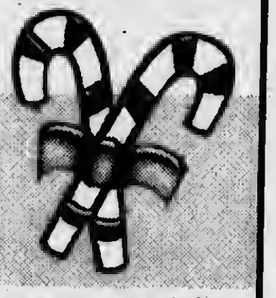

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Murphy's 5th Annual "Giving Tree"Holiday Collection Drive

Traditionally the holiday season is a time to give, a time to help those less fortunate than ourselves. In keeping with that holiday spirit, Cook County Commissioner Joan Patricia Murphy has joined the ongoing efforts of Project Share and Ceda Center for Community Action to provide food as well as toys and other gifts to help brighten the holidays for families in need.

Murphy's "Giving Tree" collection drive, is accepting donations of new children's toys, games, stocking stuffers, non-perishable food, as well as, new hats, gloves, scarves, slippers, and socks. "There is no greater joy then the joy of giving, of knowing you have made someone's life a little better, a little happier. Your generosity will make the holidays more meaningful," Commissioner Murphy said.

Donations must be dropped off no later then Friday, December 18th at Commissioner Joan Patricia Murphy's District office located at 5405 W. 127th Street in Crestwood. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. All items donated to Murphy's "Giving Tree" will be delivered to local charitable organizations to be distributed to local families.

For more information please call Tom Duke at Cook County Commis-sioner Joan Patricia Murphy's Office 708-389-2125.

Wishing you a happy, healthy, & wonderful Holiday Season

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Village View Staff extends our warm greetings for a Blessed Christmas and A Happy Holiday!

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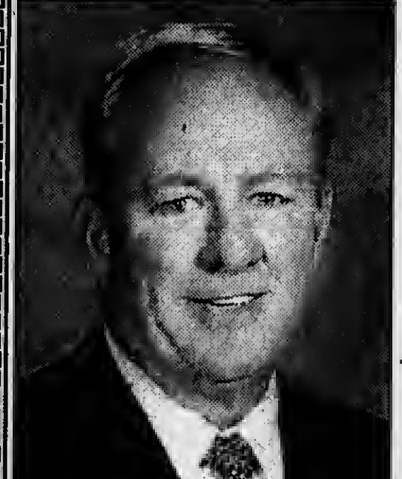

Happy Holidays & Joyous New Year
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Photo by Kristie Kahns

Cirque Du Soleil Banana Shpeel performing until January 3rd.

by Annette Dixon

Banana Shpeel is a family entertainment production. The corniness of vaudeville has the children laughing in the aisles. This is not a circus or a musical, but it's just a succession of wackiness. If they haven't changed the opening of the performance then the silliness of the clowns would have been my only complaint, mainly because it was used for opening the show in which they took too much time.

I was annoyed by it but the kids were still laughing at times. So comedy is still in the eyes of the beholder.

The entire show is propelled by crazyness and the slapstick comedy but choreography was terrific. *Banana Shpeel*, the latest Cirque du Soleil production, will continue through January 3, 2010. Following Chicago, *Banana Shpeel* will begin performances in February 2010 at The Beacon Theatre in New York.

Banana Shpeel is a roller-coaster mix of performance styles inspired by vaudeville that blends comedy with tap, hip hop, eccentric dance and slapstick, all linked by a hilarious narrative that ignites a succession of wacky adventures. It's just crazy vaudeville.

This year Cirque du Soleil celebrated its 25th anniversary. From a group of 20 street performers at its beginning, in 1984, Cirque du Soleil is a major Quebec-based organization with more than 4,000 employees from over 40 different countries.

Regular tickets range from $23 to $98, check hot tix for tickets for the whole family. Take the kids, they will love it. Surely it's a family entertainment production.

Tickets for all performances can be purchased at www.cirquedusoleil.com or www.thechicagotheatre.com or by calling 1-800-745-3000.

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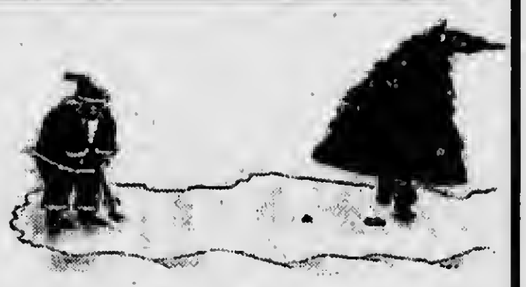

www.WATERSEDGEGOLF.com

BeBe Neuwirth, (Morticia), Nathan Lane, (Gomez)
Photo by Joan Marcus

Chicago is fortunate to still have World Premieres

by Annette Dixon

Many months have past since the producers, Stuart Oken, Roy Furman, Michael Leavitt and Five Cent Productions were in town hyping their production of **The Addams Family.** The wait was too long, but the outcome was out of this world.

In May, I personally spoke with Andrew Lippa, music and lyric writer for **The Addams Family Musical** and when he gave a sample of his work, I knew there was a hit around the corner.

On opening night, Wednesday, December 9, 2009, the spectacular performance of NATHAN LANE (Gomez) and BEBE NEUWIRTH, (Morticia) was mesmerizing. They were so great with their lines and also Nathan Lane threw in his one liners regarding Chicago. It was fantastic.

This new musical based on the beloved family characters created by the legendary cartoonist Charles Addams.

Many remember the televison series of **The Addams Family,** but this musical is outstanding. The set designs, lighting, the sound effects, the visual effects are quite suprising. Without giving too much information, I can honestly say Showboat was the number one extravaganza, and **The Addams Family Musical** is number two.

The musical is an all around success, the rest of the cast also needs accolades: Terrence Mann (Mal Beineke), Carolee Carmello (Alice Beineke), Kevin Chamberlin, (Uncle Fester), Jackie Hoffman, (Grandma), Zachary James (Lurch), Adam Riegler, (Pugsley), Wesley Taylor (Lucas Beineke), Krysta Rodriquez, (Wednesday).

The last date is Sun. Jan. 10th. Tickets are in the range of $28 to $105, available at box office or call 800-775-2000, all Ticketmaster locations, including Hot Tix and select Carson Pirie Scott and at Coconuts and online at www.BroadwayInChicago.com

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Steppenwolf Theatre Presents American Buffalo

Steppenwolf Theatre Company continues its 2009-2010 season, an exploration of the theme of belief, with American Buffalo by David Mamet, directed by ensemble member Amy Morton. American Buffalo features ensemble members Francis Guinan and Tracy Letts with Patrick Andrews. American Buffalo plays until February 7, 2010 in Steppenwolf's Downstairs Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted. In a cluttered, run-down Chicago junkshop, three small-time crooks plot to steal a valuable coin collection. As the heist unravels, the men's frustration and paranoia intensify. Ensemble member Amy Morton directs this groundbreaking American play that weaves humor and menace throughout an emotionally charged struggle for identity and dominance.

Regular Run: December 15, 2009, February 7, 2010 Curtain Times: Tuesdays through Sundays at 7:30 p.m. (Sunday evening performances through January 10 only) Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3:00 p.m. Wednesday matinees on January 13, 20 & 27 and February 3 at 2:00 p.m. Regular Run: $20-$77

Twenty $20 tickets are available at Audience Services beginning at 11:00 a.m. on the day of each performance (1:00 p.m. for Sunday performances). Half-price rush tickets are available one hour before each show. Student discounts available

The American Buffalo Wine Tasting Night: Enjoy wine and food pairings from Vinci Restaurant while our DJ spins tunes in our balcony lobby: Wednesday, December 23 at 6:00 p.m. Tasting and performance cost $60 per person. For tickets and additional information, contact Audience Services. 1650 N. Halsted St., 312-335-1650 available at www.steppenwolf.org

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8:00 AM
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Students who are not admitted to Maria High School will be refunded the $25 Exam fee.

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Nick Garcia
Education major
Veteran

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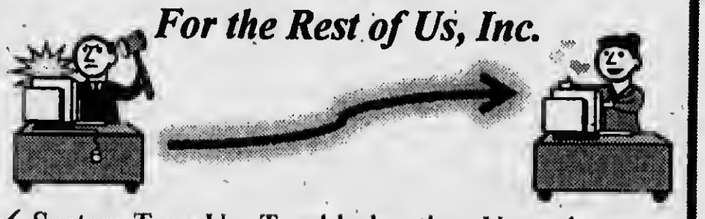

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Far South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Oak Forest / Orland Park / Tinley Park

Volume 7 Number 24

December 15, 2009

Orland won't play that game

By Matt Mayer

Acting governor Pat Quinn signed a bill in July allowing state sponsored video gambling machines, however there was one caveat - an opt-out for local governments which is what the Orland Park village board did at the Dec. 7 Board of Trustees meeting by approving an ordinance banning such gambling within the village. This vote came four months after the board voted to table the issue until further information was obtained.

According to a publication by John Skorburg, an associate editor of Budget and Tax News and policy advisor to the Heartland Institute, the bill that Quinn signed, was passed by the Illinois state legislature in May, implementing a state construction program which allows for video gambling poker and blackjack- in bars, social clubs, restaurants and gas stations and airport lounges in an effort to help fund $3.1 billion in statewide infrastructure upgrades. Rep Lou Lang, D-Skokie, sponsored the bill. Prior to the vote the village chambers were overflowing with residents and others both in support and opposition to the video gaming ban.

Through a yearlong $26 million project, ComEd proactively reinforced or replaced more than 1 million feet of underground cable to cost-effectively improve reliability for customers.

ComEd completes $1.1 million in underground cable work to improve reliability

ComEd customers in Midlothian, Oak Forest, Palos Heights and Palos Park may have to worry less about losing power during this winter season. ComEd has completed a $1.1 million project to replace or reinforce more than 7 miles of underground distribution cable in four suburban Cook County communities. The investment will improve reliability and reduce outage frequency for approximately 500 area customers directly served by those underground lines.

Underground cable can be damaged in many ways ranging from lightning striking the ground where the lines are buried to general wear and tear over time. Because the lines are buried underground, they can take longer to repair when a portion is damaged.

Throughout the year, ComEd proactively replaced more than 5 miles of cable in Midlothian, Oak Forest, Palos Heights, and Palos Park. On another 2 miles of underground cable, ComEd utilized a new "injection" technique that can add 20 years to the life span of existing cable. The cost-effective method involves injecting a silicone-based material directly into an underground line to help fill cracks in the insulation and improve cable life.

"This work was part of a system wide $26 million effort this year to proactively replace and reinforce more than one million feet of underground cable on our system," said ComEd President and Chief Operating Officer Anne Pramaggiore. "This work will continue throughout 2010 and will cost-effectively benefit tens of thousands of customers for years to come in the form of less frequent underground outages."

Some of the longest lengths of locally replaced and reinforced underground lines were located along 159th Street and Thomas Lane in Oak Forest, 131st Street and Harlem Ave. in Palos Heights, and 131st Street and LaGrange Road in Palos Park.

"These investments also reflect ComEd's long-term commitment to improving our system and maintaining reliability for all customers. For example since 2001, ComEd has invested more than $6 billion to expand and upgrade our transmission and distribution systems," said Executive Vice President of Operations Terence Donnelly.

These investments have resulted in a 39 percent reduction in the frequency of customer interruptions since 1998, and a shorten-

Orland Park Lions Club sells Christmas Trees

The Orland Park Lions Club annual Christmas Tree sales will be held on 143rd and LaGrange Road until December 23rd. For details go to www.orlandparklionsclub.com.

Presbyterian Church in Orland Park announces Christmas schedule

Thursday, December 24, 20095:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Early Worship Service

In this early Christmas Eve Service, the church youth will help remind us of the true meaning of Christmas through the presentation of "Glory to God in the Highest", which includes the biblical prophecies and accounts of Jesus' birth, a Children's Nativity, wonderful songs performed by the Joyful Noise Children's Choir, and the lighting of the Christ Candle. Thursday, December 24, 2009 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service Everyone is welcome to come and be part of this beautiful and traditional candlelight worship service as we light the Christ Candle and celebrate His birth. The Celebration Singers choir will enhance this meaningful service with a wonderful celebration of music.

Sunday, December 27, 2009 10:00 a.m. Young Adult/College Student Sunday

Come and enjoy this special worship service as young adults and college students participate in this service. We look forward to our young seminary student, Adam Malak, offering the inspirational thought for the morning. This will also be our Family Worship Day.

Thank you for your help. 13401 South Wolf RoadOrland Park, Illinois 60467, (708) 448-8142.

Can Oak Forest Count on You?

United States Census 2010 forms will be mailed to all Oak Forest residents in March. It is very important that every resident complete and return the form. Census data is used in many ways, most importantly to determine our representation in Congress and determine the amount of federal funds distributed to Oak Forest. If you have questions about the 2010 Census, e-mail Oak Forest Census Representative Rhonda Ceska at census2010@oakforest.org, submit this form to City Hall or visit www.census.gov.

The census form is quick and easy to fill out. Just 10 minutes is all it takes to have your say in how over $400 billion a year will be spent on our communities.

Orland Park Village Trustee Jim Dodge and Village Clerk David Maher listen as Mayor Dan McLaughlin answers a question during the recent Meet the Village Board evening held at the Village of Orland Park Administration Building. The evening offered members of the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce an opportunity to discuss topics of concern with the community leaders.

E-mail address: vvnew @sbcglobal.net

South Suburban Edition

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Volume 10 Number 24

December 15, 2009

Palos Heights increases tax levy

By Matt Mayer

Officials at the Dec 1 Palos Heights City Council meeting approved an increase in the city's 2009 property tax levy by slightly more tax 9.2-percent, which equates to $7.036 million compared to last years levy of $6.442 million. The increase in the levy is an effort to capture all new assessed valuations reflected by gains in real-estate property within the village.

The estimated growth of last year's real-estate value was 4.5-percent. The 2009 increase will be reflected on next year's real-estate tax bill. Approximately 11-percent of a resident's property tax bill goes to the city, officials said. A public hearing was held prior to the city council meeting, which is required by state statute if the proposed increase is greater than 5-percent.

Other highlights: The city approved a request from RedFlex to install a red light camera on the northwest corner of Southwest Highway at Route 83 (southbound traffic lanes). A request to approve a contract with DCG Roofing Solutions for the Recreation Center roofing project for $192,050 was approved as well as a request to purchase a back-up replacement pump for the waterfall at Lake Catherine. A motion to allow the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to vacate 40 feet of the unimproved 68th Avenue Right of Way to adjoining property owners, with 20 feet vacated to the property owner at 12540 Navajo Drive West and 20 feet to the property owner at 12461 S. 68th Court was also approved.

Worth Park District hosts fun holiday activities

Candy Cane Hunt

It is rumored that Santa will leave candy canes around the Terrace Centre's Indoor Playground and outdoor playground. Join us on Saturday, December 19 as we search for the hidden candy canes. After the search we will enjoy a Christmas themed craft. Please dress for the weather since the search will take place outdoors. This event will be from 10:00 – 11:00 am. The deadline to register will be December 12. The cost for this hunt and craft will be $ 6.00 resident and $ 9.00 non-resident. You may bring cameras for pictures with Santa. For more information on this event, please contact the Worth Park District at (708) 448-7080 or visit us at www.worthparkdistrict.org.

Snowboarding Adventure

Grab your board and friends and head to the nation's first snowboarding excusive terrain park with the Worth Park District. Raging Buffalo Snowboard Park contains two rope tows, half pipes, kickers, table tops, staircase and a magic carpet on the beginner hill. This trip will take place on Tuesday, December 29 from 9:00 am – 4:00 PM for kids grades 6th – 12th. The cost is $ 55.00 for rental or $ 45.00 for no-rental. Remember to bring extra money for lunch and a helmet! The deadline to register is December 22. For more information, please call the Worth Park District at (708) 448-7080 or visit www.worthparkdistrict.org.

Jazzercise

When you love your workout, results come easy. Jazzercise combines elements of jazz dance, training, Pilates, yoga and more to create an effective exercise program for people of all ages and fitness levels. Weights are optional. Jazzercise meets on Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays from 9:30 – 10:30 am to the Worth Park District's Terrace Centre (11500 S. Beloit). The monthly Easy Fit Ticket price is $ 36.00 or $ 26.00 for seniors. There is a $ 35.00 joining fee. For more information and an explanation of fees please contact Karen at (708) 790-6286 or karenzjazz@comcast.net.

Worth Park District is located at 11500 S. Beloit (3 Blocks West of Harlem on 115th Street).

McCord Gallery to open 2009 Holiday Shoppe

McCord Gallery & Cultural Center announces the opening of its 2009 Holiday Shoppe. The rooms of the gallery will be bursting with unique and affordable items made by local and regional artists and artisans. Dolls, pottery, jewelry, glass, quilts, ornaments, accessories and much more will be available for everyone on your gift list. Curators Jeanette Wood, Pat Mikrut, and Lynne Terr invite all to drop by the holiday shoppe , explore the rooms of the historic McCord House, and visit with us and our friendly and helpful volunteers, all while having a no-stress shopping experience. The McCord House is located at LaGrange Road and Creek Road (129th Street) in Palos Park (phone 708-671-0648). The Holiday Shoppe is open until Sunday, December 20th. Hours are Monday-Saturday, 10am-4pm, Friday, 10-8. The holiday shoppe is closed on Sundays, except for the 20th of December (10-4) for "last minute shopping".

Moraine Valley offers continuing education classes, art, writing, and more

Certified public accountants may now take continuing professional education (CPE) courses, both online and in-class, at Moraine Valley Community College, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills.

Approved online CPE courses include "Introduction to Microsoft Office Accounting Professional," "Employment Law Fundamentals," "Understanding the HR Function," "Business Law for the Small Business Owner," "Microsoft Office Software," and "QuickBooks." Classroom courses include "Microsoft Office Software," "QuickBooks," and "Web Marketing for Business."

Spur some creativity this spring by taking one of Moraine Valley's new art or writing classes.

Have fun with Caricature Drawing and capture a person's likeness while using the effects of exaggeration. Gain experience with a wide variety of paints and painting mediums by taking Materials and Techniques of Painting.

Know how to knit or crochet and want to learn more patterns? Then sign up for Advanced Crocheting or Advanced Knitting.

For the writing enthusiast, Get Your Creative Works Published is the class to take. Find out how to get your written work out to a wider audience. Or begin to trace your family tree and unearth your deep roots in Moraine Valley's new Genealogy course. A self-help class also is available this spring, Manifest Your Destiny based on Dr. Wayne Dyer's book.

New to Moraine Valley Community College for the spring 2010 semester is the 50 Plus Ageless Learning classes for adults over the age of 50. From computers to fitness there are several new courses being offered.

Want to learn or improve computer skills? Then try Computer Basics, which introduces computer terminology, hardware, software, and mouse usage. Windows Basics is designed to teach the fundamental skills necessary to adequately use Windows. Microsoft Word covers creating, editing and formatting documents, creating tables, and inserting and formatting graphics.

How about an overview of the Internet and World Wide Web or using electronic mail? Then Internet Basics is the class to take.

For more information on any of these classes call Workforce Development and Community Services at (708) 974-5735 or register at (708) 974-2110 or online at morainevalley.edu.

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas sings carols with Illinois State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias at her Annual Holiday Party. Several hundred persons from diverse ethnic and religious groups attended Pappas' Holiday Party, which has become a tradition in the Treasurer's Office at the Cook County Building in downtown Chicago. Guests viewed more than 80 Christmas trees decorated by different ethnic groups of Cook County and sang carols as the Treasurer played the keyboard.

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B-MAC EDITION

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOOD NEWS!

VILLAGE VIEW

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Volume 3 Number 24

December 15, 2009

Alsip approves levy resolution

By Matt Mayer

Officials at the Dec. 7 Alsip Board of Trustees meeting approved a resolution request to determine the amounts of money necessary to be raised by the 2009 tax levy A resolution request for the inducement to determine the development of certain properties within the village was also approved.

Other highlights: the fire department received a $45,107 grant for the purchase of three heart monitors. Police officer Jon Kane was congratulated for successfully completing his probationary period. Kane's probation was extended due to his military deployment.

The police department will also be celebrating the appreciation of school crossing guards from Nov. 30 through Dec. 4. This celebration will consist of the distribution of letters to schools offering students as well as all residents the opportunity to express their appreciation on the department website. Further information may be obtained via the police department web site or by calling the village hall at 708-385-6902.

Early voting for the February primary election will be from Jan. 11 through Jan. 28 at the village hall. The village hall will be closed from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 11 for a Christmas party.

SWSRA collects food and celebrates

South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA), a non-profit organization that provides year-round recreation services for individuals with special needs, held their annual Feed the Hungry Dance on Friday, December 4th at the Midlothian Park District. SWSRA collected non-perishable food items from over 150 dance participants. Participants then entered a holiday themed gymnasium and danced the night away. Snacks, beverages and a DJ were included to make the night even more fun-filled.

SWSRA would like to thank all the staff and volunteers who helped make the Feed the Hungry Dance a great success along with each individual who donated a non-perishable food item at the dance or at the Apollo Recreation Center.

SWSRA is currently taking Winter Program Registrations through December 31st. SWSRA is offering dances, special events, trips and a wide range of programs for individuals with special needs. If you would like to receive a winter brochure or would like more information, please contact the SWSRA office at (708) 389-9423.

Local student makes history at the FLCCC National Championship

Local students Lukas Verzbicas of Orland Hills, Ill., won the Foot Locker Cross Country Championship (FLCCC) this past Saturday. Verzbicas was able to grab an early lead and he never looked back. He is the first sophomore boy to win the historic championship. He finished the 5,000 meter run with a time of 15:08, bettering second place Matthew McElroy of Huntington Beach, CA by 15 seconds. Verzbicas qualified for the championship by winning the FLCCC Midwest Regional last month with a time of 15:34.

Megan Goethals of Rochester, Mich., also won the FLCCC Midwest Regional for the girls and was able to continue the Midwest dominance over high school cross country by narrowly beating Chelsey Sveinsson of Dallas TX in what has been described as one of the most exciting finishes in the history of this event. Goethals ran a 17:24 to win the Midwest Regional, but needed a gut wrenching 17:07 to come from behind and steal the title from Sveinsson. Goethals is a two-time Midwest Regional Champion (2008 and 2009).

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These investments have resulted in a 39 percent reduction in the frequency of customer interruptions since 1998, and a shortening of outage duration by 34 percent in the same period.

Through a yearlong $26 million project, ComEd proactively reinforced or replaced more than 1 million feet of underground cable to cost-effectively improve reliability for customers.

Moraine Valley offers online Educator's Academy

Educators can earn continuing professional development units (CPDUs) and enhance their teaching by taking online courses through Moraine Valley Community College.

Course offerings include "Survival Kit for New Teachers," "Working Successfully with Learning Disabled Students," "Teaching Students with Autism," and more. For more info call (708) 974-5735.

Village View

Oak Lawn, Illinois

Cook County

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